

Thursday July 4 1996

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# The Guardian

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OnLine

## Television caught in the Web

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# Howard's £2bn jail cover-up

Secret costings block Learmont proposals to improve security

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE Government is to shelve key parts of a package to bring Britain's jails up to recommended minimum security standards because it cannot afford the £2 billion price tag, according to internal Whitehall documents seen by the Guardian.

The papers also show that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is being advised to cover up from Parliament the failure to find the money for the security work, and to introduce a much delayed scaled down security package.

The need for an extra £2 billion of public money to provide the minimum security in the jails recommended by the official inquiry into the Parkhurst prison breakout has

remained a Whitehall secret since February. The scale of the funding problem facing ministers is similar to the cash needed to bail the Government out of the BSE crisis.

The disclosure comes as prison governors claim that record prison numbers recently led to inmates having to sleep on mattresses on the floor at one prison.

Home Office ministers told Parliament on December 13 Mr Howard would make a statement "in the spring" on his progress on implementing most of the recommendations of the inquiry report by General Sir John Learmont. Deci-

sions on some specific proposals such as the "super-maximum" security prison would not be made until later this year.

"There is a presentational problem," says an internal Whitehall submission to the Home Secretary written earlier this year. "Ministers would not wish to indicate that implementation of a significant security report was contingent on achieving adequate funding."

The document suggests alternative devices for omitting to tell MPs that he has not secured the necessary Treasury funding for Learmont's main recommendations.

The £2 billion bill spread over four years covers 73 of Learmont's 127 recommendations. They include bringing all prisons up to a minimum standard of security with strengthened perimeter fences and new closed circuit television systems; training for prison officers 14 days a year instead of the current five; replacing dormitory accommodation with cells; introducing electronic and magnetic locking systems; improving searching of visitors; and building a new "supermax" prison to hold the most dangerous inmates.

The documents say the cost-

ings are "ballpark figures" but say even if more work is done on them the total sums "will remain large, well beyond our ability to handle in the foreseeable future... we need to take a view on the priority we attach to the different elements of the Learmont report."

The Prison Service must decide which elements to press ahead with and which "it can put on the backburner indefinitely".

The documents suggest that Mr Howard be able to delay making a full response until November - a year after Learmont reported - as long

as "there is not undue political pressure".

The senior civil servants admit that there is a "tangible tension between the expectations generated by the Learmont report, which ministers broadly supported, and the realities of staff and capital cuts which followed."

The document says that since the "dreadful White-moor and Parkhurst events" the prison services security performance has been much improved with a sharp reduction in the number of escapes. The senior civil servants suggest that the Treasury is pressed for an interim high

priority package to upgrade the high security prisons, costing a total of £118 million.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said it was now clear why the real costs of the Learmont report had not been made public. "These costings in the current financial climate are not possible. The Learmont report will be one security measure that this administration just cannot afford. Cuts and minimum levels of security are clearly incompatible."

Whitehall tips, page 5; Leader comment, page 8

## Russia puts Yeltsin on course for second term

David Hearst in Moscow

**B**ORIS Yeltsin appeared on course to win a second term as Russia's president last night as early results and exit polls gave him a clear lead over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov.

But the Yeltsin camp's delight over his likely success will be tempered by renewed worries about the president's health, raising questions about who will wield real power in the Kremlin in the coming weeks and months.

With 15 per cent of the vote counted, Mr Yeltsin led by 52 to 41 per cent. A television exit poll estimated the Yeltsin lead at 15 per cent. But the president's men urged caution after turnout fell well below last month's first round. Final results will not be collated until today.

"The result is too optimistic. The red belt regions have not yet been included in the results and I think there will be some closing of the margin," Vyacheslav Nikonov, a senior Yeltsin campaign official, said. "The gap between the candidates will be less than 10 per cent."

Mr Yeltsin's big day began badly when he failed to cast his vote at a Moscow polling station where the world's media were awaiting him. It emerged that he had cast his vote in a private sanatorium.

The first Communist reaction to the results sounded like an admission of defeat. Anatoly Lukyanov, a leading member of the Zyuganov team, said: "We will take the results calmly. Our bloc will accept the result and we will be a weighty opposition force."

The first results came from

traditionally strong Yeltsin areas, and his campaign team were worried by reports of a low turnout in his heartland areas, such as Moscow, where the mayor appealed on local radio for people to vote, and his home city of Yekaterinburg, in the Urals.

With 14 regions which had closed polling by 8pm the turnout was a little over 62 per cent, just above the level that presidential supporters calculate would give him a clear lead over Mr Zyuganov.

The Communist leader has proved his ability to get faithful Communist voters out in two successive elections, but Mr Yeltsin's support, built on a coalition with the nationalist General Alexander Lebed was always going to be harder to predict.

If Mr Yeltsin's clear margin of victory is confirmed, it may be enough to stamp his authority over feuding factions in the Kremlin and General Lebed's loose cannon of a security adviser.

The day started with a public relations disaster for the presidential campaign, as Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, who had disappeared for a week amid conflicting reports about an alleged "heart threat" failed to show up at his local polling station.

He was filmed by his own cameras casting his vote in Barvikha, the elite sanatorium in which he spent a month recovering after two mild heart attacks last year.

Moving slowly, but managing a smile, Mr Yeltsin said: "All of you, absolutely all of you come to vote! Do not forget your duty!" His press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, later explained the last-minute switch in the polling arrangements, claiming that Mr Yeltsin had got permission to vote in a different station the night before.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, continued to insist that the president was all right. "Would I have left the country, had things been otherwise?" he said, referring to his recent trip to the G7 meeting in Lyon.

National television gave no hint of the morning crisis, showing instead a ticking clock showing the time left for voters. In an message that became dangerously two-edged, the clock was accompanied by the sound of a human heartbeat.

Mr Zyuganov arrived as his

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Kashibly liver? page 2; Russian election, page 7



Sir Cliff Richard, with 'backing group' of (from left) Pam Shriver, Rosalyn Nideffer, Martina Navratilova and Gigi Fernandez, entertains at Wimbledon yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GILL ALLEN

## Sir Cliff to serve - with throwbacks

Richard Williams on how rain halted play and pop's sedate golden oldie held sway

**J**UST when Tim Henman threatened to bring British tennis into the modern era, up jumped Sir Cliff Richard on to the very same Wimbledon stage to take British pop music back into the dark ages.

Sir Cliff, the nation's number one tennis groupie as well as its oldest surviving pop star, took advantage of a long rain delay on men's quarter-finals day - which saw Henman's match postponed until today - to serenade the cold and frustrated Centre Court spectators from his seat in the royal box.

Pete Sampras and his Dutch opponent Richard Krajicek were at two games all in their first set when the drizzle set in. Three hours later, after the crowd had exhausted its repertoire of community singing and party games, Sir Cliff came to the rescue.

Commandeering a microphone and the empty royal box, he began his performance with, inevitably, Summer Holiday. "What next?" he asked. "Do you remember The Young Ones?" The faces of the many foreign visitors remained politely blank.

But there were enough genuine Brits in the crowd

to ensure that, even after 30-odd years of the Beatles and the Stones, the hand-clapping was resolutely anchored to the on-beat. John Lennon, Mick Jagger, Johnny Rotten, Morrissey, Liam Gallagher - suddenly they seemed to have passed across the face of British culture with no more consequence than Bobby Wilson, Billy Knight, Roger Taylor, the Lloyd Brothers and Jeremy Bates.

As Sir Cliff swung into Bachelor Boy, an all-star backing vocal group filed into the row behind him: Pam Shriver, Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade,

Gigi Fernandez, Elizabeth Smylie and half a dozen other past and present stars of the women's tennis tour.

"The Supremes!" Cliff said, beaming proudly. More like Gimpy and the Groin Strains, others felt.

Notable by her absence was Sue Barker, Sir Cliff's sometime alleged girlfriend. The 1976 French Open champion and current BBC-TV Wimbledon presenter is generally credited with lighting the fuse of his tennis obsession by teaching him to do something with his tennis racket other than imitate Hank Marvin.

But nothing could hold back Sir Cliff, who at 55 looked almost as boyish as the 21-year-old Henman.

All Shook Up and Livin' Doll whizzed by, in the atmosphere enhanced by the large green canvas tent covering the court itself - of a Boy Scout camp of the 1950s.

"This is the most unusual experience of my career," Sir Cliff announced. "I never thought I'd play the Centre Court."

But it couldn't last. "Who knows who we'll be singing this to on Sunday night?" he said, introducing Congratulations, which came second in the 1968 Eurovision Song Contest (not one hopes, an omen for Henman). And as the crowd swayed in wait time, the sun came out. Just like Woodstock, really.

Wimbledon reports, page 16

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Sketch

Indiana Major and the temple of Scone



Simon Hoggart

THE message on the Commons monitors was dramatic: "Statement: The Stone of Destiny..."

Her Majesty's Ministers, the Stone should be returned to Scotland," he declared.

Whatever the reason, every word was greeted with louder ribaldry. "The Stone of Destiny holds a special place in the hearts of all Scots..."

Not so Mr Blair, who managed a coherent reply. Mr Major congratulated him in one of his circular sentences.

Various Scottish Tories stood up to say what a splendid gesture he had made. Opposition MPs said the opposite.

John Maxton (Lab, Cathcart) didn't even want the symbol. People who wanted a Scottish parliament, he said, "do not believe that the return of a feudal, medieval symbol of tyranny is any more than a total irrelevance."

Tommy Graham (Lab, Renfrew) had an appalling idea. "For every thousand unemployed people we should get a bagpiper and march the Stone with 200 unemployed bagpipers from one end of the country to another."

Mr Major replied that unemployment was falling in Scotland. "When we have that pipers we will have people with new jobs, with permanent jobs, following that pipers, instead of all those people who were only in work because of subsidies."

A march of the employed, with pipers. Perhaps they could march from London to Jarrold, in order to gloat about their good fortune. Still, it could be worse. Mr Graham might have suggested instead 200 pipers for every person out of work.

I also know that John Major is the kind of person who would insist on taking the Stone in his cabin baggage—and I would be the bloke stuck behind him in the gangway.

Free vote expected on proposals to give backbenchers £9,000 more and ministers a £30,000 increase

PM set for £60,000 rise

Downing Street, declined yesterday to reveal which way he will vote next week. John Major did not disclose his view, either.

THE biggest pay rises for MPs and ministers for more than 30 years, including a £60,000 pay rise for the next prime minister to £143,000 a year, are to be rushed through Parliament next week.

The Cabinet is expected today to agree to a free vote for MPs to approve a £2,000 increase for backbenchers and pay rises worth £20-£30,000 for ministers.

Details of the pay rises were revealed yesterday with the leaking of a report by the Senior Staff Salaries Review Board to the Press Association 24 hours before it was due to be discussed by the Cabinet.

The report calls for substantial rises to redress a long period in which MPs' pay has been tied to inflation after Lady Thatcher removed the link with civil service grades.

The report recommends salaries of £103,000 per year for cabinet ministers and the Speaker, an increase of over £33,000 on the present £69,631 a year.

MPs' pay rises are tempered by a substantial curb on motor mileage allowances. The report describes the top rate of mileage paid, 74.1p, as "unjustifiably generous" and recommends reducing the level to that paid to peers, 47.2p a mile.

Office costs allowances for MPs, currently £2,908, will rise to £48,350 if the report is agreed.

The SSRB report has found room for a big increase in the prime minister's and cabinet ministers' pay by recommending that they receive a full parliamentary salary of £43,000 to recognise the fact that their responsibilities as MPs continue unabated.

Reaction last night was mixed. The veteran Labour MP, Alf Morris, who has campaigned for better pensions for MPs, welcomed the move.

The Conservative former trade minister, Alan Clark, disagreed. "If anything they should get a cut," he said.

Labour's transport spokeswoman, Clare Short, said she would oppose the rises, until there had been a thorough review of MPs' jobs.

Mr Major, in an interview with Classic FM radio, said he had written to the leaders of every party seeking their views "to see if we could reach a consensus. I haven't yet had replies from all of them. But those I have heard from seem simply to be saying that it is a matter for the House of Commons, and they don't wish to express a party view."

Mick Graham of the GMB said: "The prime minister's pay goes up £60,000 while local government workers are offered 11p an hour. What makes it even worse is that the dustmen, cleaners and school meals staff actually deliver on their jobs. John Major's performance should leave him taking a pay cut."

Sir Colin Marshall, president of the CBI and chairman of British Airways, said: "This is an enormous level of increase, a great deal more than people in BA or in the economy generally are getting."

Support came, however, from Cedric Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, whose pay rise sparked off the "fat cat" controversy. He said: "I am sure a prime minister is worth every penny of this pay rise."

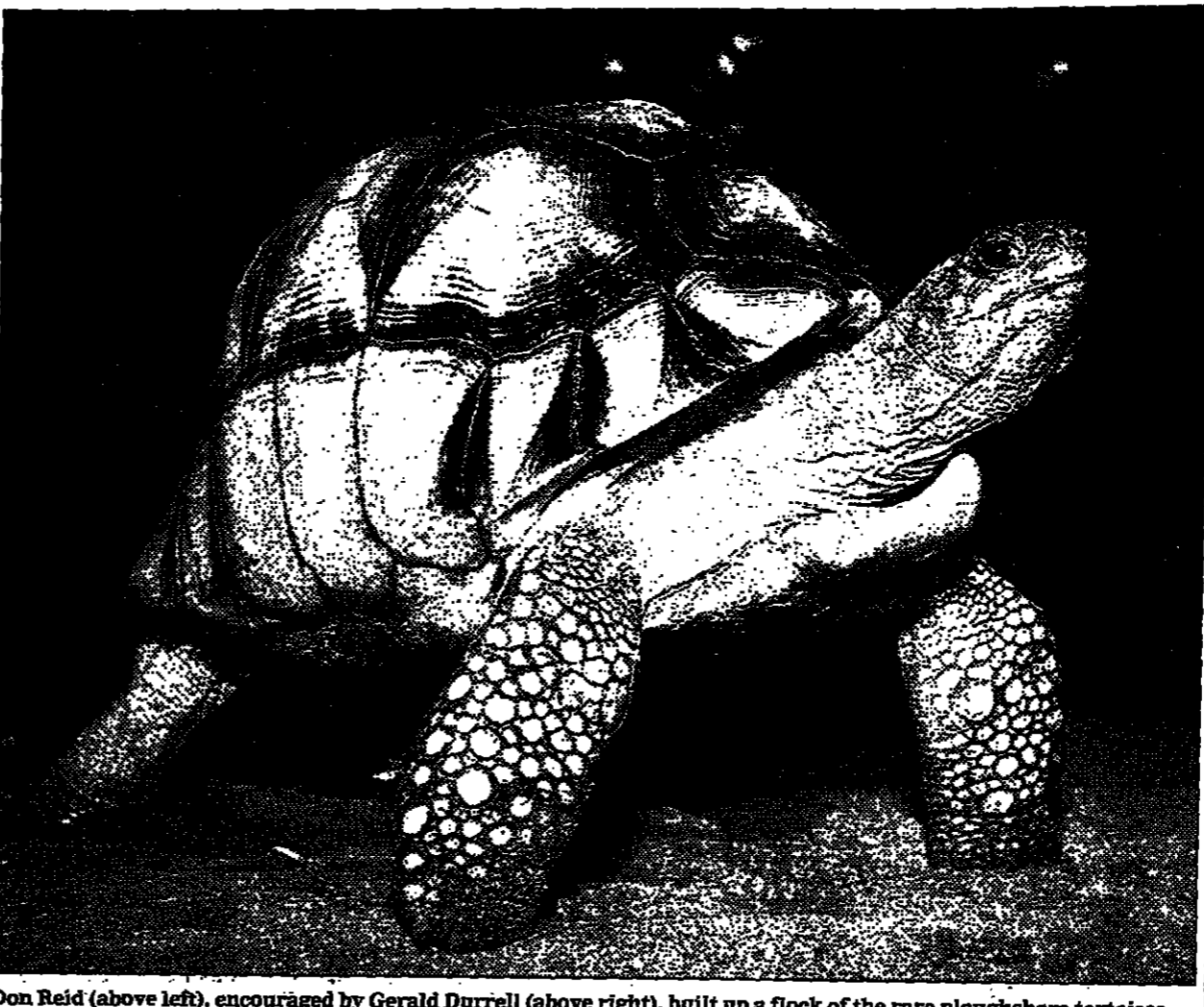
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Tortoise snatch risks wipe-out

lan Katz on the fate of a rare species

THE CAST includes a former bait and tackle salesman from Essex, a Dutch animal detective, an environmentalist hitman and 75 of the world's rarest tortoises.



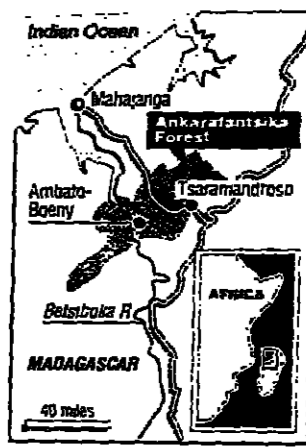
Don Reid (above left), encouraged by Gerald Durrell (above right), built up a flock of the rare ploughshare tortoises

with only about 400 believed to be living in captivity or in the animals' tiny natural habitat in Madagascar.

The ploughshare tortoise's flirtation with extinction owes much to its profound lack of enthusiasm for sex. Males will mate only when they are aroused by fighting other animals, using the plough-shaped protruberance which gives them their name.

Which is where Don Reid comes in. The former owner of a bait and tackle store and cricket fanatic was breeding crocodiles when Durrell persuaded him to move to Madagascar for a year to try to save the ploughshare. Ten years later he had built up a flock of about 150 ploughshares at a remote facility in the

Madagascar jungle. But now, it seemed, the years of work had been wiped out in the few minutes it took to clear half of his locked compound.



He said the animals are bought by collectors determined to secretly breed their own colonies of endangered creatures.

Mr Luitj is convinced the ploughshares are spread around several countries. "We know exactly who's involved in this case but we need evidence to do something," he said.

Review

Techno by the Tiber? Spooky!

Dave Simpson

EVERYONE agreed that this was the most surreal event they had seen. A neo-symphonic Techno outfit playing their own free festival on the banks of the Tiber, whatever you call it.

though there are elements of all three. What is certain is that Spooky produces a hypnotic and often stunningly beautiful concoction of sounds, some of which are synthesiser generated and some which were just lying around in their house in Camberwell.

Spooky emerged shortly before eleven, by which time a hotpotch of Italian house devotees and confused locals had gathered in earnest. The party didn't start until it had launched into Ohlong and it illustrated the burgeoning interest in Spooky in Britain.

After about 20 minutes the band - Charlie May and Duncan Forbes - first emerged on the Guerrilla label in 1983, when their unique brand of Techno was so advanced they invented a new name for it, Progressive House. Three years later Guerrilla has collapsed, but Spooky have re-emerged with their own Generic imprint through A & M, and even left Progressive House behind. Nobody knows quite what to call their new music. It is not quite Techno, it is not really classical, it is not exactly dance music, al-

Private cash will rebuild city

AREAS of central Manchester bombed by the IRA are likely to attract hundreds of millions of pounds of private investment, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday as he unveiled an initial £20 million aid package.

tional competition will have a deadline for tenders by November and substantial changes are expected within the next three years.

A bloated voter with a suspected knobly liver

Luisa Dillner

BORIS Yeltsin's carefully chosen words yesterday gave few clues as to what is medically wrong with him.



President Yeltsin casts his vote in Barvikha yesterday

This does not bode well for Russia. It is therefore more charitable and optimistic to put his ill health down to heart problems.

Mr Yeltsin is also said to have angina and to have had at least one heart attack. He often slips his right hand into the left side of his jacket, although it is not obvious that he is suffering from chest pain at the time.

Yeltsin on course for second term

continued from page 1

Mr Yeltsin's lifelong rival, the former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, and the extreme nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, both ostentatiously cast their votes against both candidates.

Given a lengthy briefing at the first election briefing of the day by the presidential election analyst, Vyacheslav Nikonov.

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# Stone of Scone's going home after 700 years

Michael White  
Political Editor

**J**OHAN Major delighted patriotic Scots but astonished the political establishment at Westminster yesterday by unexpectedly announcing that the ancient Stone of Scone is to be returned to Scotland 700 years after it was seized by the marauding English.

Major's gesture would renew pressure on Britain to hand back other cultural icons seized during its imperial heyday, notably the Elgin Marbles. The Stone is the property of the Queen and is simply being removed from one part of her kingdom to another, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, confirmed. Ministers also tried to squash the instant revival of another legend, that the Stone, which was stolen by nationalists — stolen back, they would say — in 1950, was not returned to its place below the Coronation Chair in 1952 — the year before the Queen became the latest monarch to be crowned above it. A fake was substituted and the real Stone is still in Scotland, former Labour frontbencher, John McAllion, and others said. Ministers insisted it was authenticated in 1951 and promised to publish the papers which prove it.

Since Jacob's pillow — as it is supposed to be — reached the now-ruined Scone Abbey in 846 via Egypt, Spain and Ireland's sacred hill at Tara, mere paperwork is unlikely to prove anything conclusively. By comparison Mel Gibson's Oscar-winning blockbuster *Braveheart* — in which Edward I is cast as the villain — is a model of accuracy. Mr Forsyth, who initiated yesterday's decision, repeatedly stressed: "I do not regard this as a political gesture, which is why Mr Major had resisted the temptation to save yesterday's Commons statement for his appearance at the Scottish grand committee in Dumfries tomorrow. Instead he stressed the Stone's religious symbolism. Mr Forsyth's claim is one which few will believe of such a wily politician. He has been working to boost Scottish political self-esteem through a series of symbolic moves, in-

cluding tomorrow's committee session in Dumfries. Many MPs see the decision as chiefly symbolic of the Tories' 15 per cent share in Scottish opinion polls. Tony Blair and the former Liberal leader, Sir David Steel, welcomed the decision as proof that Britain's "distinct and proud nations" can celebrate unity and diversity — a hint at devolution battles ahead. "I hope you recognise it is the settled view of the majority of people in Scotland that they want not just the symbol, but the substance of the return of democratic control over our internal affairs in Scotland," said Sir David. Angry Labour backbenchers and the SNP MP, Margaret Ewing, were much more blunt. Mrs Ewing complained that the "stolen goods" were supposed to have been returned under the terms of the Treaty of North-

ampton in 1328 — but were retained by the Abbey. A return of full sovereignty would not be delayed so long, she predicted. With some Labour MPs dismissing the Stone as an irrelevant symbol of "feudal medieval tyranny", Andrew Faulds even questioned Mr Major's claim that Scotland's crown jewels — to be displayed with the Stone — are Europe's oldest. Hungary's are older, he claimed. Mr Forsyth, who has spent the past year hammering Labour's "tartan tax", called his initiative "a confident act of celebration of our United Kingdom and the Union of the Crowns". Ministers stress the Stone will be returned to Westminster for the coronation of the next monarch, assuming there is one, and that England and Scotland are still on speaking terms.

Leader comment, page 8

## Heavyweight royal relic with a rocky history

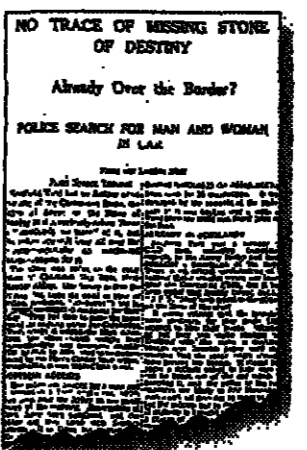
**Erlend Clouston** on a legend and a rival claim to authenticity

**A**RGYLL had better brace itself for a rush of pilgrims. Forty-eight hours after New Age traveller Andrew Connell delivered a high-profile prayer to the Great Spirit from the region's mystic hillock of Dunadd, the Prime Minister was impelled by supernatural forces to give up its most celebrated adornment. There are two versions of the Stone of Destiny's origin. The boring one, developed by nationalist novelist Compton Mackenzie, has the 39th sandstone slab chiselled from rocks near Oban. Romantics prefer the notion that it was deposited on top of Dunadd, crowning place of the early Irish/Caledonian monarchs, by a muscular Egyptian princess called Scotia. According to this legend, the stone was part of the honeymoon luggage of Scotia and her Greek lover, Gedyll-Glays, possibly impressed by the even earlier legend that it provided Jacob with a pillow for the enjoyment of his famous dream.

After a hazardous voyage via Sicily, Spain and Ireland, the pair allegedly entered Scotland in tandem with the successful fourth century invaders of Antrim's Dal Riata tribe. Now embellished with a blessing by St Patrick, the stone was used as the crowning stool for a succession of Scottish monarchs until 840AD when Kenneth mac Alpin transferred it 90 miles inland to new and safer royal headquarters at Scone. In the future Perthshire, the stone's aura of spiritual antiquity was especially valued at Scottish coronations, access to holy oil. Its constitutional potency finally prompted Edward I, during the devolutionary unrest of 1296, to make a pro-union strike and remove it to London. A subsequent 1328 promise to return the stone was never kept, a betrayal which prompted four Scottish nationalists to liberate the geological relic 622 years later in 1950.



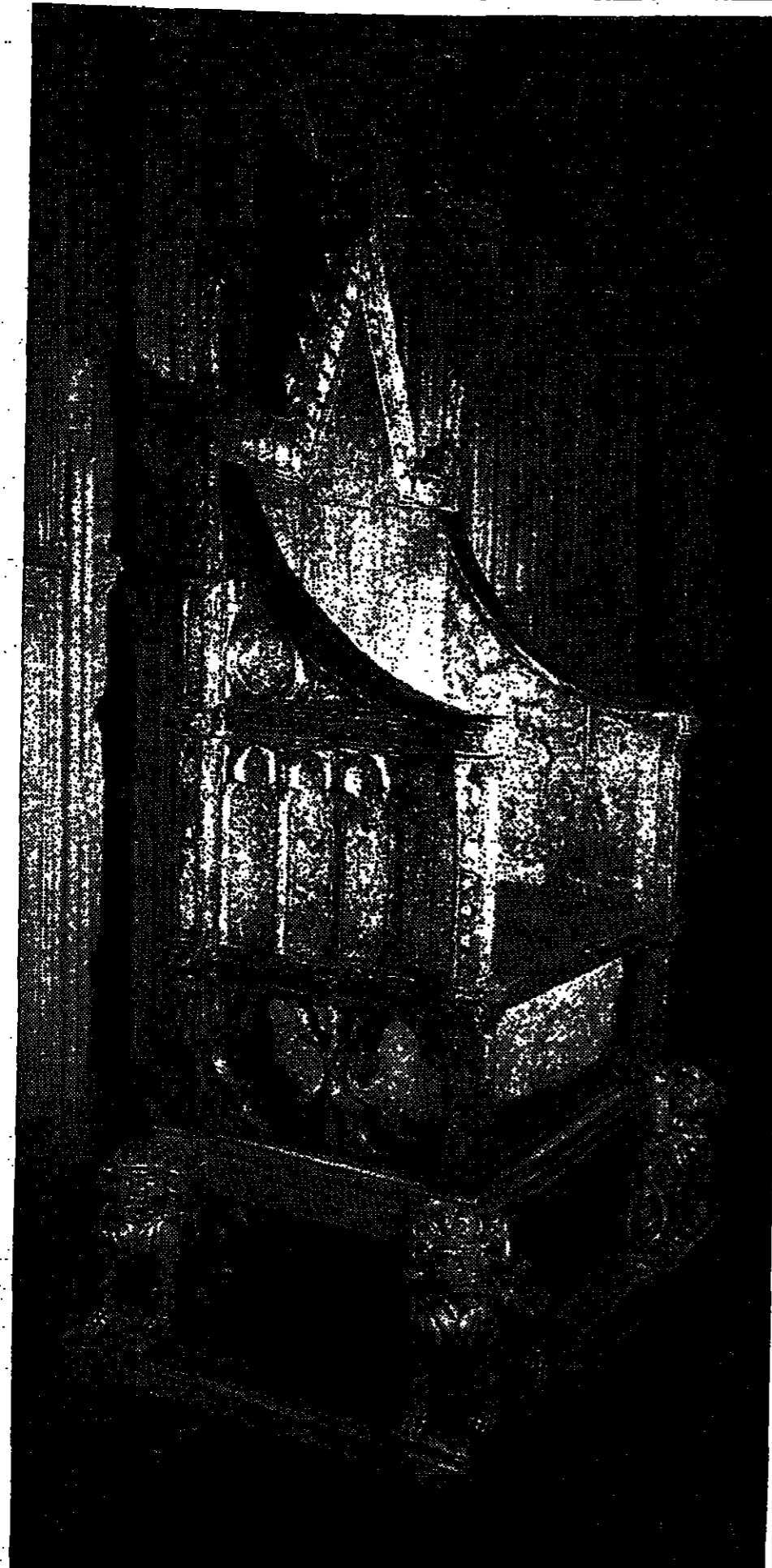
Edward I (left) first snatched the stone, whose later theft, as reported in the Manchester Guardian in 1950, ended with its recovery at Arbroath Abbey in 1951 (right)



Here the trail forks again. The official theory has it that the stone was left, after four months, to be retrieved by the agents of the state in Arbroath Abbey. Last night, however, the Rev John Nimmo insisted that Mr Major is sending back a fake stone. According to Mr Nimmo, aged 76, chaplain to Scotland's 200 Knights Templar, Scotia and Gedyll-Glays' baggage now sits by the baptismal font in the



order's 12th century church at Dull, Perthshire. As Mr Nimmo understands it, the real stone was switched by the kidnappers to the kidnapers to repair earlier damage possibly caused by suffragettes. An X-ray machine may have to be called in to settle the issue. "Before it was made up, a piece of paper was inserted certifying that it was the real Stone of Scotland," said.



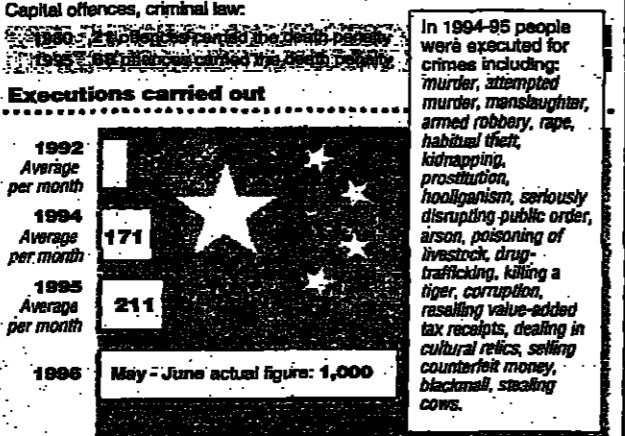
The stone in place under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey, to where it was returned in 1952 after being stolen on Christmas Day 1950

## Execution epidemic as China tackles crime

John Gittings

**C**HINA is carrying out executions on a "massive scale" in a frenzied campaign to stamp out a nationwide crime wave. At least 1,000 people have been summarily shot in the past two months, says Amnesty International. Most are tried in public and their sentences are applauded by cheering crowds. Many are peasants who have not been given time for a proper defence. Prisoners are put on trial in city squares or stadiums with their hands tied behind their backs. Some are in shackles with ropes around their necks. Most are driven off immediately in an open truck and are paraded around the town before being shot on an execution ground. "The broad masses of people clapped their hands with joy," said one official report, when 18 criminals were sentenced to death in Xiayang City, Shaanxi Province. Public rallies across China on June 28 to sentence people accused of drug offences were attended by 1.75 million people — nearly 1.5 per cent of the population. More than 230 of those convicted were executed on the same day. Amnesty says this is "state killing on a massive scale". It calls on China to stop what has become a "hysterical" campaign. Beijing launched the campaign to "strike hard" against criminals at the end of April. The Communist Party leadership was responding to widespread alarm that crime and lawlessness are thriving in

### Executions in China



the new climate of economic reform. But Amnesty says many of those executed are given no time to defend themselves. Some are victims of the calendar: a year ago they would only have been jailed. Last month three men were executed in Heilongjiang province for "the serious case of stealing farm animals". Peasant migrants seeking jobs in the cities are blamed — often unfairly — for creating the new crime wave. On Tuesday, five out of six men were executed in Beijing came from the provinces. In Guangdong province, which borders on Hong Kong, there are said to be 600,000 peasants seeking work who have "flooded in" and "littered the streets". The Chinese media has issued calls to "deal a fatal blow" to criminals. It complains that "ruffians and evil forces" are roaming the countryside and reports the re-

## Strike vote by pilots means BA faces loss of £40m a day

Seamus Milne  
Labour Editor

**B**RITISH Airways pilots overwhelmingly voted over-whelmingly to strike over pay and in-flight conditions, raising the prospect of disruption at airports at the peak of the holiday season. Pilot and flight engineers backed the call for the first flight crew walkout for 18 years by a margin of nine to one in a 94 per cent turnout. Just under 3,000 members of the British Airline Pilots Association took part in the strike ballot. The first stoppage, which threatens to ground BA's fleet at a cost of £40 million a day, could take place within two weeks. The company carries 90,000 people a day in 525 flights. Voting was 2,687 to 282. BA professed itself baffled as to why its pilots — whose average basic pay is £57,000 and the most senior of whom can earn £100,000 including allowances — should strike against a 3.6 per cent offer. At the heart of Balpa's concerns is the gap between pay of pilots at Euro Gatwick and that of flight crew working for the main BA business. The average Gatwick captain earns £39,000-£53,000 and BA will only narrow the differential in exchange for productivity gains. The Gatwick operation is being expanded and Balpa fears it will be used to undercut rates for the majority of pilots — particularly as BA is seeking to reduce entry rates for fully trained pilots from £32,488 to £27,000 (entry rate for cadets is £18,000).

EU muscles in on BA deal, page 12

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**He is bitter over the way Manchester seems to have been sidelined by the Government — a feeling reinforced when he got a £24 parking fine after being told to move his car when Michael Heseltine visited the city last week.**

**Peter Hetherington, G2 cover story**



# Statues to vie for plinth under Nelson's eye

### Alex Bellos on new battle of Trafalgar

THE prospect of a horse in a tank of formaldehyde joining Nelson and George IV in overlooking Trafalgar Square became a distinct possibility yesterday when it was announced that contemporary artists will be asked to build sculptures for London's most conspicuous empty plinth.

For 150 years the 24ft-high plinth in the north-west corner of the square has remained empty because no one could agree what to put on it.

Now, a plan backed by the Queen and John Major has broken the stalemate: it will have a different statue a year for five years, one from Victorian times, another from the early 20th century, and three to be commissioned.

After the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce mooted the idea of using the plinth two years ago, it received about 1,000 suggestions from the public. Many wanted a statue of some sort of hero, such as Paul Gascoigne,



Watch this space... The plinth at Trafalgar Square where statues will come and go over a five-year period

PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPER MATTHEWS

Margaret Thatcher, or Nelson Mandela.

Pru Leith, chairwoman of the society, said: "I think Gazza is a wonderful footballer but I am not sure if he is right. A sporting hero is fine but the general guidelines are no living heroes because you never know what they will do."

On the north-east corner of the square a matching plinth has a statue of George IV on a horse. The surface area is a rectangle of 14ft by 6ft, making it the perfect size for an equestrian piece.

Asking Turner Prize winner Damien Hirst, whose works include various

horse-sized animals floating in formaldehyde, to design a sculpture was a possibility. "He has not been ruled out but neither has he been approached," the organisers said.

It is hoped that the project, estimated to cost up to £3 million, will be funded by the Arts Council's Lottery Board. An application for a small amount for a feasibility study has already been submitted.

The study will identify the best way of selecting existing works and commissioning new ones.

James Lingwood, of the ArtAngel Trust, said the plan was reviving a tradi-

tion of public sculpture around the area. There was a rich seam of talented contemporary British sculptors to be tapped, such as Michael Sandle and Rachel Whiteread.

The Canadian High Commission facing the plinth has expressed an interest in staging an exhibition in which people could learn the history of the square and vote for their preferred sculpture.

Mrs Leith said that with the help of the Department of National Heritage and Westminster Council, which will have the final say, the first sculpture could be in place next year.

## Alternative food for thought

JAKE Chapman and his brother, Dims, who are the sculpture world's *enfant terrible*, would like to see a hot dog stand which gave out free hot dogs after midnight on Trafalgar Square's empty plinth, writes Hannah Pool.

"Or maybe a cybernetic sculpture of Stephen Hawking to answer all our questions, like an oracle," said Jake Chapman.

"It would be very easy to make and we would be happy to do it."

But the brothers, whose exhibition of sexually morbid mannequins at the Institute of Contemporary Arts has

fascinated as many as it pleased, are probably unlikely to be commissioned.

A more likely candidate is Anthony Gormley, who designed the 175ft steel angel destined for Gateshead.

He said: "The time of statues is over and maybe the time of plinths is also over."

"It would be more of a challenge, and a better sign of confidence in our contemporary culture, to offer somebody the chance to re-do the entire square."

# Eight charities share mystery donor's £9m

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A CHARITY with no staff and an annual income of £18,000 is one of eight charities receiving an anonymous donation of £1.2 million each in one of the biggest individual charitable gifts of recent years.

Another beneficiary is a fund run by Benedictine monks at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, for missionary work in Peru.

The donations, totalling £9.7 million, have come from a source which solicitors have described only as a private individual. It is believed, however, that the money has been paid by a Liechtenstein-based trust fund set up under the estate of a British woman who died in 1993.

The director of one charity said yesterday: "The cash arrived in American dollars drawn on a British bank in the Middle East from someone in Liechtenstein. I think it's safe to assume this involves enormous offshore interests."

The spread of the gifts suggests somebody with typical commitment to children's and cancer causes, and also unusual interest in Peruvian missionaries, gardeners' welfare and physical therapy.

Among the eight recipients are the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, the College of Occupational Therapists and the British Association of Hand Therapists.

The association was reluctant yesterday to discuss its windfall. It is both a charity and a professional organisation of therapists who treat people with hand injuries. It has no staff and has relied for income on the subscriptions of its 250 members, an annual total of £18,000.

The monastic leaders of the Friends of Peru were unavailable for comment on how their £1.2 million will help Worth Abbey's Lima mission.

Other charities were more forthcoming. Colin Bunce, chief executive of the gardeners' benevolent society, described its gift as "wonderful and extremely exciting". It would go towards rebuilding the society's nursing home for retired gardeners in Hen-

field, West Sussex. The charity's normal annual income is £2 million of which less than half is expected from bequests.

John Thompson, chief executive of the occupational therapists' college, which has a usual income of just over £3 million, said he was still coming to terms with the gift.

"The first thing that comes to mind is that this must be someone who has received excellent service from one of our members, or knows someone else who has," he said.

Bengie Walden, director of the International Spinal Research Trust, another recipient, said £1.2 million would enable the charity to start and fully fund a further five research programmes on spinal injury or disorder.

The donation more than doubled the trust's annual income, he said. "Whoever this is obviously has a had, colourful and catholic interests."

But we have no idea why we should have benefited. Of course, we are delighted."

Other large charities each receiving £1.2 million are the Great Ormond Street children's hospital fund, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Sunshine Fund for children.

Andrew Young, a partner of solicitors Alsop, Wilkinson, who are acting for the donor, said the client had expressly sought anonymity. "All I can say is that it is a non-resident English person," he said, adding that the beneficiaries were the donor's favourite charities.

Stephen Lee, director of the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers, said a total gift of almost £10 million from an individual in such circumstances was "very unusual".

But he warned: "It raises all sorts of questions for smaller organisations, which could be knocked out of kilter by such enormous largesse."

The veteran rocker appeared on stage at Saturday's concert sporting an eyepatch.

But last night it emerged that Daltrey, aged 52, may have to undergo surgery on his fractured eye socket.

A spokesman for the singer said: "The bone is damaged but not his eye tissue."

A Mastercard Masters of Music concert spokesman said: "Roger would like it known that the accident was totally his fault. He does not blame Gary Glitter in any way."

They were derided as dinosaurs. But one of the stars at the giant Hyde Park rock concert in London nearly became the first Cyclops of rock.

Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who, suffered a serious injury centimetres from his eye when he was struck by a microphone stand wielded by Gary Glitter in rehearsals on Friday.

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# Whitehall tips for Howard on covering failure

Alan Travis

THE Whitehall papers on prison security seen by the Guardian provide astonishing evidence of advice from a senior civil servant to the Home Secretary on how to cover up to Parliament his failure to get the money needed to improve security.

The documents say that Home Office ministers were already concerned that the response to Parliament on the Learmonth report might be un-

duly delayed. The report of the inquiry into the Parkhurst breakout was published last October on the same day Michael Howard sacked the prisons director general, Derek Lewis.

"Ministers have, however, told Parliament that there will be a report detailing actions which have been taken, or which are planned, to implement most of the recommendations 'in the spring'," the draft submission to Mr Howard says. "There is, however, a presentational problem with those items

which are indicated as requiring funding. Ministers would not wish to indicate that implementation of a significant security report was contingent on achieving adequate funding."

The senior civil servant gives two options to skate over this inconvenient fact that they had not the money to implement the security measures.

The first is that Mr Howard gives Parliament a timetable which shows only those recommendations "on which firm action has been taken or

is planned (those not requiring funding)". Seventy-three of Learmonth's 127 recommendations need new money. Fifty-four do not. The document says: "Ministers could state that the omitted recommendations were those which were still undergoing study."

The second suggestion offered is not to publish a timetable outlining how Learmonth will be dealt with. The document says: "If parliamentary questions were asked 'this omission would have to be justified', possibly by the complexity of the issues."

Improvements in security would cost £2.5 billion

A STAGGERING £2.5 billion is needed to pay for the security improvements recommended by the official inquiry, chaired by General Sir John Learmonth, into the Parkhurst prison breakout, writes Alan Travis.

The report, published last October, concluded that the prison service had to "now get the basics right for it can ill afford another episode which erodes its very foundations". The Whitehall documents make clear that the prison service has been serious about which recommendations need "action, and which can be put on the backburner indefinitely".

Among those which service chiefs regard as a priority are:

□ Introducing a permanent record of prisoner movements in the six maximum-security dispersal jails and review intelligence information needs. Cost: £9 million capital, £10.9 million over four years.

□ Improving training of prison officers. Cost: £5 million capital, £55.8 million over four years.

□ Introducing more drug free wings and drug testing. Cost: £45m over four years.

□ A purpose built high security prison costing £68.9 million to build and £41.7 million to run over four years.

□ Setting minimum physical security standards for all prisons and applying them. This includes reviewing the system of security categories for prisoners to "remove dangerous anomalies". Low security jails with dormitories should have cells put in, stronger perimeter fences built and closed circuit TV introduced. Entrances to maximum security prisons should also have closed circuit TV. Cost: £1,153 million capital, £382 million in running costs over four years.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Republican candidate 'not certain' whether nicotine is addictive

Bob Dole under a cloud after smoking blunder

Jonathan Freedland in Washington THE Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, became engulfed in the politically lethal fumes of the tobacco debate yesterday when he claimed that one of the most respected figures in American medicine was "brainwashed" into believing nicotine is addictive.

Mr Dole attacked C. Everett Koop, who was the surgeon-general under Ronald Reagan and is widely seen as the Republican Party's favourite doctor. In an interview with NBC TV, Mr Dole defied the near-total scientific consensus that nicotine is addictive. "I'm not certain whether it's addictive," the candidate said. "It is to some people."

He said, sticking to his present strategy of framing every issue in terms of young people. Democrats have worked hard to place Mr Dole on the wrong side of the tobacco debate, constantly reminding voters of hefty party donations from the cigarette companies. Republicans received \$4.5 million in tobacco money between 1993 and 1995, compared with \$800,000 for Democrats.

Mr Clinton has effectively written off the support of tobacco growers in southern states, aiming instead for the majority of American voters who tell pollsters they want a candidate who's tough on smoking. He has unveiled initiatives aimed at reducing children's access to tobacco, and reminded voters that last month Mr Dole compared the dangers of underage smoking to the risks of drinking too much milk.

Huge power cut leaves Americans in the dark

Jonathan Freedland in Washington MILLIONS of Americans in the western United States were plunged into chaos by a mysterious collapse in the electricity supply on Tuesday. Hospitals from Seattle to San Diego faced crises and in more than a dozen states and two Canadian provinces there was mayhem on the roads.

Without electricity for 36 hours. Five million were affected by this week's cut, deprived of power for between two and four hours. There were no reports of looting or crime during the shutdown, partly because the problem was solved before nightfall. Experts were at a loss to explain the cause of the trouble. There was speculation that it might have been caused by a sudden overload in record heat — a surge in demand as customers switched on their air conditioning — and reports came in of a thunderstorm knocking down an electricity pylon.

What is known is that one of three key power-lines linking the Pacific north-west and California went down, forcing the extra load on to the other two. When they could not cope, the system apparently collapsed, bringing panic to parts of Arizona, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Texas, Nevada and Wyoming. "It's nothing we did," said an energy department spokesman, pointing out that the National Grid is a network of private utility companies, not a government-run operation. The collapse is likely to prompt concern about the efficiency of the companies, several of which have bought recently privatised British utilities.

Brazil's X Files succumb to down-to-earth ghostbusters

Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo DISEMBODED voices speaking in unknown tongues. People vanishing into thin air. Telephones dialling themselves. It was enough to put people off work at the Sao Paulo city council building in Brazil. Councillor Paulo Roberto Faria Lima did not believe the ghost stories, but he changed his mind after a close encounter.

Two months ago, he had stayed late with his wife to update his computer files. "At 12.30am we wanted to leave but couldn't open the door. It was weird because it can only be locked from the inside. Then we started hearing voices speaking in an unidentifiable tongue and heard furniture moving around. I phoned security and a guard came up and opened the door with no problem. He told me we were the only ones in the 12-storey building."



Fans pay homage to Doors' singer

HUNDREDS of Doors fans gathered at the grave yesterday to mark the 26th anniversary of the death of the band's singer, Jim Morrison, writes Alex Duval Smith in Paris. Fans from all over the world — most of whom were not born when he died from heart failure in Paris in 1971 — left flowers and poems at Morrison's grave.

Police turned out in force, searching all who entered the cemetery — the resting place of some of France's most famous literary figures — and confiscating alcohol. Five years ago, 400 fans who had been refused access to the grave set fire to cars and stormed the cemetery's gates.

Morrison, famous for classics like Light My Fire or When The Music's Over, was 27 when he died after coming to Paris to immerse himself in the cult poetry of Arthur Rimbaud and recuperate from a drug-induced burn-out.

In what has become a pilgrimage, fans are also flocking to two concerts in Paris by Patti Smith, a 1970s rock legend and Rimbaud fan.

Missing atheists 'may have been murdered by zealots'

Three relatives 'flying to New York' have made no contact for nine months, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

EVERY day that passes increases the suspicion that when America's leading atheist and her son and granddaughter disappeared last September they may have been murdered by a deranged Christian zealot. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, aged 77, founder of American Atheists Inc, provided the impetus for the 1963 supreme court decision banning prayer in US schools, and she became known as "the most hated woman in America."

She, her son Jon and granddaughter Robin, aged 30, have not been heard from since September 28 when they telephoned to say they were flying to New York. Their tickets have never been used. Skip Tyson, acting director of the American Atheist, based in Austin, Texas, said murder was a possibility, "given the Christian zealots' frame of mind."

But, he emphasised, there was no evidence to support the murder theory. Rumours have ranged from the bizarre — that Mrs O'Hair had conceived a child — to accusations of embezzlement and flight from the income tax authorities. Mr Tyson points out that a former Inland Revenue claim for \$1.5 million in unpaid taxes was "cooked up by a couple of zealots" but reduced to \$37,000 accumulated over 11 years.

The final account came before the three vanished, and he added, "there is money in the bank to cover it". He is now living, for security reasons and at the request of the association's board, in the O'Hair home, a modest \$200,000 house. "There seems to be nothing missing of any importance or volume — there are plenty of clothes still here," he said. This seems to dispel accusations that the O'Hairs were living luxuriously off group funds. Another theory involves a probate case in San Diego where a multi-millionaire atheist left a large sum to the association. The legacy was opposed and the case has been in litigation since 1987.

Councillor fined for wooing voters with false promises

Alex Duval Smith in Paris A COURT in Nancy, eastern France, found a regional councillor guilty yesterday of not living up to his electoral promises. Bernard Martin was fined 20,000 francs (£3,500) for promising that he could create 310 jobs in an area of Lorraine which has 20 per cent unemployment. Before the regional elections in 1992 Mr Martin distributed a flyer in the canton of Badonviller announcing that a Belgian company, Sun Parks, was to build a leisure park which would create 310 jobs and attract "tens of thousands of tourists all year round."

Mr Martin, a rightwing candidate, won the seat, prompting his Socialist rival, Jacques Boulanger, to start a four-year legal battle using a little-known clause banning candidates from "usurping votes with false promises". The offence carries a maximum of one year's imprisonment and a fine of up to 200,000 francs. Mr Boulanger told the court that when Mr Martin distributed the flyer he was well aware that Sun Parks had withdrawn its leisure park project. "On March 9," said Mr Boulanger, "Sun Parks wrote to the regional council saying it would be unable to proceed with the project."

Mr Martin denied being aware of the letter, adding that politicians had always got away with false promises. "Francois Mitterrand promised during the 1981 presidential campaign to pay compensation for every job lost in the Lorraine steel-works," he said.

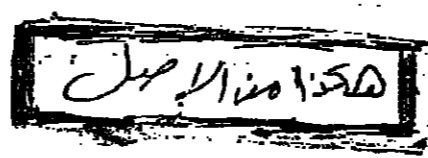
Swiss army compromise soothes ruffled feathers of pigeon fanciers

Pigeon breeders were particularly angered by the defence ministry's decision, because it takes time to train birds for night flying and Alpine manoeuvres. Faced with this mobilisation of pigeon power, the government was forced to propose a compromise. Now a newly-created foundation for the pigeons will have the use of a military post near the capital, Bern. Pigeon fanciers will be able to use the facility for scientific research on the birds. In addition to the 7,000 army-owned birds, there are another 23,000 privately-owned pigeons on standby in case of national emergency. The Swiss army — a 550,000-strong reserve force — has not fought a war in four centuries.

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RUSSIAN ELECTION: Soap opera viewers are urged to turn out as the ballot competes with a day off at the dacha

# Yeltsin rounds up the stray voters

James Meek in Moscow

**T**HE SOULFUL harmonium of two violins floated down the marble corridor leading to Pavletsky Station as Natasha and Lyudmila played a sad popular waltz by the Moldovan composer Doga. Passers-by rained 1,000-ruble notes into the collection tin.

Would they cast their ballots as willingly, and have one last dance for Russian democracy? Or would they hop on the suburban train and devote the extra day off to the potatoes and strawberries in their vegetable patch?

The two young buskers, both aged 20, had already wined — one for Boris Yeltsin, the other against both candidates. "After Chebchenka, after our young guys getting killed,

I'm not going to vote for any of them any more," Natasha said.

But it was the mass of passengers whose vote the Yeltsin camp was worried about. Gennady Zyuganov's voters would turn out, come hell or high water, they reckoned, but the president's fickle supporters might just decide to spend the day in the country.

Precautions had been taken to round up strays. "Passengers wishing to vote with an absentee certificate are invited to board the electoral commission bus, which will deliver you to the nearest polling station FREE!" posters proclaimed at platform exits.

Lev Aseulov, aged 58, an electrician in a chicken factory and a Yeltsin activist, was strolling up and down the station concourse with a placard, offering to show visitors

the nearest place to vote. "I'm doing it voluntarily," he beamed, "not campaigning."

At Klevsky station, a group of confused-looking martial arts experts handed out leaflets: "Vote Yourself, Or Others Will Decide For You." They said they were on instructions from Alexander Goncharov, president of the Moscow Martial Arts Federation and a Yeltsin supporter.

"It's the first time we've done this kind of thing," admitted Dmitri, aged 22, who looked as though he would be more at home landing the edge of his hand in an opponent's kidneys.

The station campaign was only part of the effort to get the voters to turn out. After the trap had been baited in the morning with three episodes of a fanatically watched Brazilian soap opera, television viewers were hit with a

series of advertisements.

"Today in Russia, there are 39 million children. They do not have the right to choose," intoned an invisible announcer. "What other argument do you need to go and vote?"

The most bizarre tried to give a sense of the vote's historical importance by showing a future Russia in which everything was named after polling day. Sailors marched past a cruiser called 3 July; a truck roared through 3 July village; youngsters walked down 3 July Street. Unfortunately for a pro-Yeltsin advert, it also featured 3 July Collective Farm.

Back at Pavletsky Station, most of those leaving had already voted. Valentina, aged 57, a feature film copier, said she had voted for Mr Yeltsin and was now off to attend to her fruit and vegetables.

"Any change of power invariably involves bloodshed, and I have a 20-year-old son," she said. "I don't want that."

The trains into Moscow were not bringing such good tidings for the president. Fyodr, aged 69, had travelled six hours with his wife from their dacha to vote for Mr Zyuganov. Fyodr's hands were grained black with soil.

A former Communist Party member and arms industry official, Fyodr said Mr Yeltsin was more of an old-style Communist than his opponent. "If Mikhail Gorbachev had made Boris Yeltsin general-secretary of the party, Yeltsin would be a true Communist to this day," he said.

"We haven't had democratic elections like you do. They've been poisoning Zyuganov. Ninety-five per cent of the TV and radio propaganda has been against Zyuganov and for Yeltsin."

Another pensioner, who did not give her name, said she had come 100 miles to vote for Mr Zyuganov. "Russia has fallen apart, the defence industry and our culture has collapsed, everything is shattered into pieces, and Yeltsin is already unhealthy — he's had a heart attack," she said. "We want something new, something more democratic, which would give us a new life."

No one else mentioned Mr Yeltsin's health problems, which have been virtually blacked out of the Russian media.

Asked about the latest health scare, Nina Komarova, aged 46, a train conductor, shrugged and said: "What can you do? His programme suits me more than Zyuganov's... I want to go forward, not back."

## Edinburgh electorate adds its weight against Communists

**I**F THINGS go wrong back home, Boris Yeltsin can always seek refuge in Scotland, writes Erlend Clooson in Edinburgh. At midday yesterday, the consul-general in Edinburgh, Gennady Lazutkin, was predicting a comfortable Russo-Scottish majority for the president.

In a first-floor reception area, bottles of Irn-Bru and Diet Coke were laid out alongside slabs of treacle toffee to reward the high proportion of 150 exiled electors expected to show up at visa office polling booths.

"Last time, 70 per cent supported Yeltsin; I expect the same tonight," said Mr Lazutkin, who hoped to fax the results to the foreign ministry in Moscow by midnight.

The leaning of Scotland's former Soviet citizens towards Mr Yeltsin is predictable. Scotland has always attracted a smattering of liberal businessmen and academics unlikely to favour a Communist victory.

● The clowns, jugglers and acrobats of the Moscow State Circus yesterday put aside their custard pies and tightropes to vote. Thirty-one cast their ballots in a special urn delivered by the Russian embassy to the circus camp in Watford, north of London.

## Time to face up to money crisis

While inflation may be down, so too is production and pay is still owing, writes David Hearst

**A**T BEST, the presidential elections have put back for another year the prize of economic stabilisation which successive waves of free-market gurus have dangled before a weary and disillusioned people.

At worst, Russia is heading for a crash of the rouble, similar to the one that occurred on Black Tuesday in October 1994, and a total budget crisis, with the state unable to pay its wages or collect its taxes.

The reasons for the crisis in state finances could be passed off as temporary. According to the finance minister, Vladimir Pavlov, the government has collected only 80 per cent of the tax revenue it calculated was due in the first six months of this year. When the political uncertainty ends, everyone will be forced to pay up.

Foreign investment all but dried up during the election campaign as managers awaited the outcome before taking further decisions.

State investment in industry almost stopped. The state has paid out only 3 per cent of the budgeted figure so far this year.

The overall picture is not encouraging. Inflation was brought down to an all-time low of 1.6 per cent a month in May from 18 per cent a month in January 1995. June's figure is expected to be in line with the

target set by the International Monetary Fund.

But industrial production is also at an all-time low, and falling. The state's debt on unpaid wages has grown to more than £3 billion.

Boris Yeltsin said in the speech in which he declared he would run again for the presidency that the entire backlog of unpaid wages would be settled in March.

It was not, and it cannot be in August or September, without triggering a collapse. In a leaked report to the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's unusually frank economics minister, Yevgeny Yasin, wrote: "To pay all wages arrears to government workers and back pensions is absolutely unrealistic."

Mr Yasin warned that Russia's currency reserves could sink from a pre-election high of more than £10 billion to £2 billion and concluded: "Attempts to raise revenue to cover the budget deficit could cause larger crises on the government bond, credit and currency markets, with consequences akin to those of Black Tuesday."

Mr Yeltsin had someone to blame for the rouble crash in 1994 — the newly privatised banks which, he claimed, were trying to mount an "economic coup". This time there is no scapegoat.

The government formed after this election knows it has to pay its wages bill before another winter sets in. This is one reason why the rhetoric in the economic debate has become so nationalistic. Even the liberal Mr Yasin says Russia has to tax foreign cars and the millions of shuttle traders going back and forth over its international borders.



Pivotal poll... A policeman rests in St Petersburg during the second round of voting. PHOTOGRAPH: ANATOLY MALITSEV

## Fog shrouds power swap

Despite Yeltsin's uncertain health, no law specifies how a handover occurs, writes David Hearst

**B**ORIS Yeltsin has signed thousands of decrees in the five years of his presidency, but the transfer of his powers to a successor is not a subject he has been keen to address.

Although Mr Yeltsin suffered two minor heart attacks last year, no law specifies how and when his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, will take charge, as acting president, if Mr Yeltsin is declared too ill to carry on. Nor does any law specify how a new president takes over from an old one.

An open and transparent transfer of power has never happened in Russia, which has a long tradition of deciding these things by revolution or in a back room of the Kremlin. When Mr Yeltsin took over as head of state from the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, it was because the Soviet Union had collapsed, leaving a job that no longer had any meaning.

Mr Yeltsin has shown no eagerness to fill the legal vacuum. His presidency, in which all executive powers have been concentrated in his hands, has left few institutions capable of administering a handover impartially.

A political consensus is emerging to create the office of vice-president, a position abandoned after the last vice-president, Alexander Rutskoi, led a parliamentary revolt in October 1993. Mr Yeltsin's new security adviser, General Alexander Lebed, is keen to fill it, but to recreate the post would require long and difficult constitutional change.

Mr Yeltsin has refused to sign a cross-party parliamentary bill on the transfer of his powers, even though it contains 19 of his own amendments. The bill tries to fill a gap of 30 days between the result of the election being officially declared and a new president taking office.

It states that the outgoing president has no right to declare a state of emergency without the consent of the incoming president. The president-elect should also have the right to participate in the Russian security council and thus be consulted on all matters of military command.

Mr Yeltsin wants four more amendments, "all insignificant" according to the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov. But even if the Duma rushes the bill through later this week, it can grind to a halt in the upper house — or simply get lost on the president's desk.

A cloud of fog is also placed around the procedures for declaring an ailing president, in the constitution's words, "persistently incapable of fulfilling his functions". Who chooses the doctors to decide on his health? To whom do they report? How long do they have to make up their mind?

Mr Yeltsin may be ill, but he shows no signs of giving in. His grasp on power has been tenacious, and he has always maintained he will not let the Communists back into power. Gen Lebed has said he will respect the results of the poll, but he stands to gain, whatever happens.

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### News in brief

**Families plead for hostages**  
Amnesty International and the families of Western hostages in Kashmir pressed for their release yesterday, the eve of the first anniversary of their capture. But the Indian authorities said they did not know whether the four captive tourists were alive.

**'Killer' freed**  
George Franklin, aged 57, jailed for killing his daughter's schoolfriend, was released yesterday after prosecutors decided not to ask for a retrial, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles. He was convicted on his daughter's evidence that 20 years after the event she recalled the killing: the first murder conviction based on repressed memory evidence. An appeal court overturned the verdict.

**Holocaust pledge**  
Hungary is to establish a foundation to administer confiscated Jewish property for the benefit of Holocaust survivors, an agreement Jewish groups hailed as a model restitution scheme. — Reuter.

**Massacre denied**  
Burundi's defence minister denied Hutu rebel accusations that Burundian and Rwandan soldiers massacred 1,000 Hutu civilians in Cibitoke province. — Reuter.

**Opposition barred**  
The Indonesian government will not let the political faction headed by Megawati Sukarnoputri contest next year's parliamentary elections, Antara news agency said. — Reuter.

**China's flood toll**  
Torrential rains and raging floods in southern China have killed more than 100 people, destroyed tens of thousands of homes. — Reuter.

**Militia arrests**  
Grenades, gas masks, body armor and ammunition were removed by the truckload from the homes of members of a private militia, the authorities in Phoenix, Arizona, said. Gary Bauer, aged 50, and 11 other members of the Viper Militia were charged with plotting to blow up government buildings. — AP.

**'Mad cow' protest**  
Livestock breeders herded cows on to barges on Venice's Grand Canal yesterday to press demands for aid after slumping sales blamed on the mad cow crisis. — AP.

### Margaux Hemingway's death 'natural'

An autopsy performed on the body of the actress-model Margaux Hemingway, granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway, showed that she apparently died of natural causes, officials in Los Angeles said.

But it will be at least two weeks before investigators receive the results of key laboratory tests to determine whether Hemingway took a fatal drug overdose.

The badly decomposed body of Hemingway, aged 41, was discovered in her apartment near Santa Monica Beach.

A coroner's official said Hemingway suffered from epilepsy and the coroner's office was looking into the possibility that she died of an epileptic seizure.

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## Deceit and duplicity

Howard's cover up is worse than the shortfall

DEEP inside the Home Office a shifty decision has been reached. The Home Secretary has failed to obtain the money needed to implement Learmont, the report which called for tighter security across the entire prison system following escapes by violent offenders from two high security prisons. More embarrassing still for our headline Home Secretary, is the extent of the shortfall. Ministers have already accepted the broad thrust of Learmont. Given their headline approach, they had little choice after the political fuss generated by the escapes. Learmont costed his proposals at perhaps £300 million, but prison officials have calculated the bill at an astounding £2.5 billion. Mr Howard has not even begun to meet this challenge. Indeed, as we documented through leaked documents in April, he has been asked to make a 13 per cent reduction to prison running costs over the next three years and a 60 per cent cut in capital spending. Now new documents leaked to our Home Affairs Editor expose a second scandal: the extent to which officials are still ready deliberately to mislead Parliament on the extent of the shortfall.

Mr Howard promised to report to Parliament by Spring of this year on progress towards achieving Learmont's plan. Unsurprisingly, there has been no report from the Home Secretary, only agonising by his officials on the "presentational problems". It is as though the Scott Report on the need for ministerial openness to Parliament had never been published. All the rotten old urges of senior advisers exposed by Scott — to deceive, dissemble, and distort to save face — which were meant to have been cleansed from Whitehall remain alive and well. The primary drive of officials remains protecting their minister from political embarrassment. All manner of cover ups are reviewed in the documents from failing

to publish an implementation timetable of Learmont's 127 recommendations to just listing the 73 which do not need money and could be embraced. If ever further evidence of the need for a Freedom of Information Act was needed, the deceit and duplicity exposed by this leak provide it. If Parliament has any self-respect left, it should call Mr Howard and his officials before the Home Affairs select committee and take them to task. The official code of behaviour for senior ministers published by John Major is unequivocal: there should be no misrepresentation to Parliament.

Ironically, the shortfall itself is far less serious than the cover up. We were not impressed with the report from General Sir John Learmont, who followed the faults in the prison system right up to the Director General but timidly refused to take the final logical step and nail Michael Howard. His report documented the Home Secretary's continual interference with operational issues in the prison system but failed to draw the obvious conclusion. Moreover, it was seriously at fault in trying to place security above the other existing co-equal goals of care and control. To their credit, officials thought so too as the leaked documents reveal. All three are needed if prisons are to achieve stability. As the Woolf Report into the 1990 prison riots documented, care and control are an essential part of the system's security. The stability which education, tv and home leaves generate in prisons, adds to their security. Mr Howard seems incapable of recognising this. He has cut all three. Michael Howard may well have escaped from his office by the time his hazardous policy brew — more prisoners, fewer resources, tighter regimes — finally explodes. But chances are there will be another serious escape before the next election. What will the hardliner say then?

## The hidden price of a pay rise

It's the Government's fault that MPs salaries are out of kilter

NOTHING better illustrates the bizarre political times in which we live than the way that the Government is handling the questions of ministers' and MPs' pay. The worldly-wise view of most politicians is that MPs' pay is a total public relations disaster area. However much parliamentarians would like an increase and however good the case may be, they believe that the public will always oppose and resent it. According to this theory, the only time that a major pay increase is politically possible comes at the very start of a Parliament, just after a general election. That way, the electorate will have forgotten about the hike by the time that they next go to the polls. By the same yardstick, the worst time to vote such an increase is just before an election, when the indignation will be fresh in the public mind.

Yet that is precisely the policy which the Government is following, not least as a bribe to disillusioned and fatalistic Conservative MPs to stay on and improve their pension rights. In order to secure that aim, the Government will today publish the much-leaked report of the Senior Salaries Review Board and then give its own view. According to another authoritative leak last night, MPs will get nearly a 30 per cent rise, taking them to £43,000 a year, while ministers will get substantially bigger rises, culminating in the Prime Minister's nearly 60 per cent increase to £143,000. Next week, the rises will be voted on by Parliament, and will proba-

bly be approved, albeit on a free vote in most parties. Next year, just before they are due to come into force, there will be a general election. The fact that these rises may have been carried in an unwhipped Westminster vote will not then be remembered. Only the resentment about the over-the-odds rises will matter, and only the Government will suffer for it.

When things are going badly for a Government, they often get worse. They get blamed for things which are not directly their responsibility. Yet there is a certain justice in the Conservatives' carrying the can for the new increases. It was their conscious decision to hold political salaries down in the 1980s — out of hatred for public money — which created the increasing and unjustifiable anomalies in the political salary scale. By refusing to put political salaries up, the Conservatives created the conditions in which politicians were led into temptation. Amid a burgeoning culture of private greed and increased expectations many MPs were tempted into more remunerative outside interests and ministers were encouraged to prepare their post-retirement parachutes into places around the boardroom tables. Today's embarrassments would not have occurred if the Conservative Party had not taken such a narrow-minded ideological view a decade ago. They cannot expect much sympathy as they struggle to deal with a problem which is largely of their own creation.

## Grand gesture on stoney ground

John Major is simply trying to save his party's skin in Scotland

SO, WELCOME back, John Major, man of surprises. A year after he shocked the world by offering himself to the Conservative electorate, the Prime Minister yesterday pulled another summer-time trick by offering the Stone of Destiny to Scotland. What was that about history repeating itself as farce?

Last year's shock announcement ended in electoral triumph, and that is clearly the intention this time too. Mr Major is nothing if not political. He hopes that by making this resonant gesture towards Scottish sensibility he will resurrect his party's tattered Caledonian credentials, trump the Labour Party's devolution pledge, make the Scottish Nationalist Party look silly and, more immediately, ease his own difficult debut appearance in front of the Scottish Grand Committee in Dundee tomorrow. Put like that, the scheme looks longer on hope than realism. It will take more than the return of

a stone — even this Stone — to save the Tories' skin north of the border.

The announcement yesterday marks a U-turn of historic proportions on the part of the English state. But it also marks a U-turn in the Conservative Party. Yesterday, and in the grand manner, the Conservative Party was converted to gesture politics. For decades, the Left has had to put up with derision from the Conservatives on account of its supposed devotion to political gestures. In one mighty bound, the Conservatives have joined the club.

In particular, this decision to return the stone to Scotland reopens the whole question of the return of other nations' art treasures and historic artefacts. If it is right for the Stone of Destiny to go home to Scotland, on what basis is it not right for the Elgin Marbles to go home to Greece? Mr Major may have opened a larger can of historical worms than he yet realises.



## Letters to the Editor

### Flagging loyalties

I AM TIRED of reading letters in the Guardian inviting Tony Blair's socialist critics to shut up purely on the basis of his lead in the opinion polls. They display not only a revealing attitude to dissent, but an extraordinary refusal to explain what Blair actually intends to do if elected.

No party or leader has any automatic right to loyalty from anyone. They have to earn their allegiance, and if, after 17 years of Tory policies, all we can expect is the same policies under a Labour flag, then Blair deserves no loyalty whatsoever.

Ed Horton,  
34 Birchfield Close,  
Oxford, OX4 5DL

### Star treatment

EDWARD Pilkington's experience as a casualty in a five-star rated hospital (Tombour treatment well added insult to injury, July 3) demonstrates how league tables distort both picture and performance. The key to a high rating for a casualty department is prompt initial assessment by a nurse, subsequent treatment can take as long as his took, or even longer.

As a member of a community health council I recently took part in a monitoring exercise in local hospital casualty departments. I was struck by the waste involved in dedicating a nurse full-time to "triage" duties and estimated that she was employed for only about a third of the time. In her unoccupied moments she could not be diverted to other duties because she had to be near reception to meet and greet within minutes, otherwise stars would be lost.

One triage nurse spent her time reading a nursing journal. I asked her if she was catching up on professional reading — no, she answered, she was scouring the job adverts because her short-term contract was due to run out in a few weeks.

David Marcer,  
1 Fernside,  
Maisemore,  
Gloucester, GL2 8HG.

### Sold short

HUGO Young's endorsement of Michael Portillo's project to sell off the MoD's married quarters is misplaced (Commentary, July 3). The apparent financial benefits are entirely an artefact of the UK's idiosyncratic system of public accounting.

In countries which use the GGF system (General Government Financial Deficit) instead of the FSEB this error would not be made. To put it another way, the Government has spent years telling us that we would be better off as house owners, and is now asking us to believe that the MoD will be better off if it becomes a tenant.

Donald Simpson,  
51 Kingsway,  
Rochdale OL16 5EN.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. To be published in the paper, they must be sent to letters@guardian.co.uk.

## Testing time for a treaty

CONGRATULATIONS on your leader comment (June 29) dealing with the hopefully temporary failure of the negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. As you point out, a key stumbling block here has been the refusal of the five declared nuclear powers (including the UK) even to consider a distant target date for abolition of weapons which, if they were ever to be used in earnest or even in misunderstanding, could destroy our civilisation.

What an appalling reflection it is on our degree of political maturity that our political leaders are united in avoiding serious public debate on the issue. You report Tony Blair as saying that, if he became Prime Minister, he would envisage conditions in which the nuclear deterrent could be used, but that it would not be "sensible for a Prime Minister to spell out those circumstances".

These are words with superficiality, a fine statesmanlike ring to them, but what they ignore is that none of his apologists, nor indeed any from the government or military sides, is able seriously to spell out circumstances in which a UK government might wish to use its

1000-Hiroshima-power nuclear deterrent to the responsible benefit of national security.

What could be possible scenarios? A Zhirinovskii stages a coup during post-Yeltsin Russian chaos and starts to move tanks into Kiev: when he calls our bluff, do we make his submarines bases at Murmansk and Vladivostok? A Saddam stifles Israel with poison gas: do we take out Baghdad? An increasingly sophisticated IRA uses a contraband plutonium weapon to finally obliterate Osnabruck: what then?

If governments, present or potential, have less unthinkable circumstances in mind they surely have a duty to find ways to share them with those of us who are paying £200 per annum per family, for the indefinite future, for the undoubted risk but dubious benefit of retaining our nuclear arsenal.

Otherwise, they should have the imagination at least to set a timetable goal for achieving a world that will be better off without it.

C. R. Hill,  
Honorary Secretary,  
British Pugwash Group,  
Flat A,  
63a Great Russell Street,  
London WC1B 3BJ

## A constant diet of Boris

JONATHAN Steele is right about the sheer bias of the Russian media coverage in favour of Boris Yeltsin in the Russian presidential election (Television 15ar, Media Guardian, July 1). On Russian television there are advertisements for Boris Yeltsin every 20 minutes or so from dawn until dusk. His opponent Zyuganov is afforded virtually no coverage at all.

Of course, Yeltsin is the man who in recent years abolished the elected representatives of the Duma (the equivalent of our MPs) when he did not like the way they were voting. He then sent in the army when they protested. He also postponed one presidential election, despite his promises to the contrary when his popularity was low.

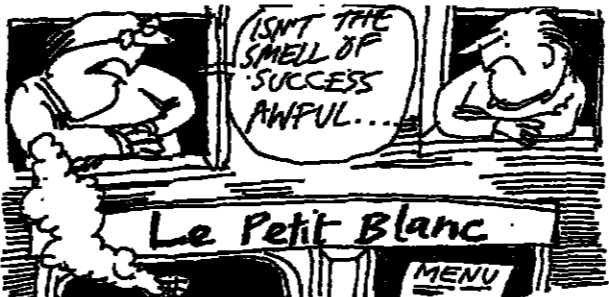
The West seems to support Yeltsin without reservation. Why is this so?  
Tom Mackinnon,  
Flat 2,  
16 St John's Avenue,  
London, SW15 2AB.

THE great mistake of the West was its withdrawal of support for Gorbachev. He was trying to bring about a democratic socialist system but the West, especially the US, which nominally supporting democracy, persisted in linking it to capitalism and the so-called "Free Market economy" and, in fact, supported capitalism at any price. We are now beginning to see what a price that is going to be.

The Russian people, in what might be their last taste of democracy for a long time, are faced with choosing between a return to Soviet communism and an ailing, opportunistic autocrat with an even more malevolent power-seeker climbing on his back. Leonard Worsley,  
105 Woodwards Road,  
London SE22 8UP.

## Final whistle

THE only problem with your otherwise excellent suggestion that the British Isles should host the 2006 World Cup is that, under current rules, all five national teams would have to be given a bye into the finals. Or are you suggesting that we should field a united British Isles team? Rugby Union manages it, of course, but it might take soccer rather more than 10 years to sort that one out.  
Richard Davison,  
35 Gochin Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex, TW2 6EH.



## A hunger for the suburbs

THE residential neighbours of Oxford's Le Petit Blanc appear to be capitalising on the proprietor's nationwide renown in making their complaints about his restaurant (Pong lands gourmet in the soup, July 2). As a resident of Oxford myself, I find it very surprising that anyone who has chosen to live in Jericho could hold Raymond Blanc alone responsible for "noise and smells" in their neighbourhood. Before M Blanc opened his doors, Walton Street already had numerous restaurants. In addition to pubs, a cinema and various other retail premises, each of which contributes to the noise and traffic congestion in the area. The continued existence of a vibrant cultural life in Oxford is dependent on exciting and individualistic attractions such as Le Petit Blanc, and the opening hours

it has selected. The complainants clearly have no appreciation of this and should move as soon as possible to a quieter and duller location in the suburbs.  
Karen Faginton,  
2 John Towle Close,  
Wytham Street,  
Oxford, OX1 4TY.

THE noise most likely to disturb people living close to Le Petit Blanc is the sound of disgruntled diners, waiting 15 minutes for wine and twice as long for food. There is, however, a ray of hope: the restaurant's support for the local economy. After an inexorable wait for butter, we were informed that, having run out, someone had popped down the road to buy some at the Co-op.  
Ben Cairns,  
61 Hertford Street,  
Oxford OX4 3AL.

## Brought to book

FURTHER to your report of last Monday's Public Accounts Committee hearing (New deal for British Library, June 25) I can assure you, readers that there is no "new delay" to the opening of the British Library's new building at St Pancras. The current schedule was set in 1994, when the Department of National Heritage notified the Library of a firm date for completion of construction work. Since then, the order of events has been slightly adjusted, but November 1997 will see the opening of the first reading room (for general humanities) while the end of the process (not mentioned in the National Audit Office report) will be marked by the opening of the science reading rooms in May 1998. The British Library is currently preparing the move into the largest and most complex public building to be opened in Britain this century; nevertheless, we are confident that the dates mentioned above will be met.  
Brian Lang,  
Chief Executive,  
The British Library,  
96 Euston Road,  
London NW1 2DB.

## A Country Diary

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: Nengale beach lies north of Haverfordwest. Miles of exhilarating sand fringes with a bank of pebbles, endlessly fascinating with their range of colours, shapes and sizes. No swimming this year yet, but the best. People frolicked with surfboards and wet suits. The hypnotic effect of waves breaking as the tide bounces in engulfed us. The beach is glorious. One gannet corpse — oil. Odd stones remain engulfed in oil. Many crustaceans are dead. There is a shortage of worms. But the cosmetic industry has done a good job. The largest one in our history has come and gone. You can buy ice creams on the beach. There will be no public inquiry into what went wrong.  
The lanes are robust with foxgloves, dog roses and elderflower. After last year's profusion the foxgloves seem spindly, but their colour is as rich. We share in the plenitude of Painted Lady butterflies. Some of their success

AUDREY INSCHE



Diary Matthew Norman

NEWS reaches us that International Who's Who debutant Mandy Mandelson, the MP for Hartlepool, has been admitted to the inner circle of Carla Powell, wife of Sir Charles, Lady Thatcher's onetime foreign affairs adviser (Charles's brother Jonathan is Tony Blair's chief of staff, but we should take care to avoid presenting an overly incestuous facade). Mrs Powell is seen as a throwback to the elegant era of the political hostesses—a woman of a certain age who held exotic dinner parties in grand houses, and sought (over the phone) to advance the claims of her favoured candidates. It would, however, be quite wrong to connect this friendship with Mandy's recent appointment to the Foreign Office; for, as he recently said on TV, he has no personal animosity whatsoever. No, what worries me is that this is the second time in weeks that he has been connected to a married lady: you will recall his high-gyrating antics on the disco floor with Anne McClellan, newly-wed deputy editor of the Spectator. Worried friends and foes alike are asking themselves: is no woman safe from Mandy's charms?

YESTERDAY, Superintendent John Richardson, the Wittgenstein of the Mersey beat who compares co-ordinated policing to a migrating flock of geese, considered how the birds maximise their flying by flying in a V-formation. That was the good news. Today, (courtesy of Police magazine) the Super continues his analogy by contemplating the bad. "When a goose falls out of formation," he explains, "it suddenly feels the drag of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation... When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing, and another goose flies to the point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed." There we are then. Tomorrow, in the final extract, Supt Richardson considers the chain of events when a goose falls sick.

THOSE seeking a distinguishing factor between police and geese may be grateful for this observation: geese do not have to rely on charity. A Canadian newspaper reports that officers in British Columbia are donating old Kevlar bullet-proof vests to British counterparts. "The officers just can't afford to buy them anymore," says Canadian PC Bob Eden, reporting that, although 2,000 vests have already reached Blighty, 5,000 British coppers remain on the waiting list. Michael Howard must be proud indeed.

POLICE were called to a laundrette in Nashville, Tennessee, after a customer noticed that a man had come in soaking wet from the rain, put some coins into a drier, climbed into the machine, and was in the process of tumble-drying. Police may well have said that there was no need to iron out any difficulties, as the man was later released uncharged.

IN Dayton, Kentucky, severely myopic James Harris survived being struck on the head by lightning. The bolt broke his jaw and melted his socks, but Mr Harris, 61, can now see perfectly.

IN a bid to save men's lawn tennis from the domination of Pete Sampras, the Diary has been in secret conclave with the International Tennis Federation. From tomorrow, umpires will be empowered to speak the words, "Code violation. Tongue hanging down. Warning, Mr Sampras." The next descent will lose him a point, and then an entire game. Should it slake its way down towards a fourth time, he will forfeit the match. It's drastic; but something must be done.

NEXT year's sporting frenzy, the diary can reveal, will revolve around the sport of fourteen chicken bowling, currently all the rage at the Fat Ladies Arms in Wellington, New Zealand. "It's the new craze, and we invented it!" announced an excited spokesman.



# Fear stalks the road to nowhere new

## Commentary Hugo Young

TODAY'S election document from the Labour Party, The Road To The Manifesto, is a success even before it is published. The illusion of its seminal importance is already a triumph of presentation. It will contain nothing to surprise anyone who keeps up with affairs. But that is the point. It is designed to create the excitement of something new, without actually being new in any way. Standing between the scores of policy statements already published, and the manifesto proper which awaits the final campaign, The Road is resplendent proof of the difference between politics and art. For the artist, originality is everything. For the politician, repetition, masquerading with media help as brilliant novelty, is the essence of his trade.

What, in the case of New Labour, does this repetition add up to? How should 'The Road' be read? What test does it have to pass? Is one that

will matter? Or content? Well, the answer to that one can be given immediately. Topping up the policies Labour is pledged to, the party accountants came to a figure of 100-plus. The NEC meditated whether to include them as an appendix to The Road, but decided against. The list, as a list, might give hostages to the Daily Mail. What still matters supremely is tone. The Road to the Manifesto will be the acme, the crystallised climax of what Tony Blair has been making of the Labour Party for the last two years. This begins with the fact that there is a document at all, an adventure no previous leader would have thought to undertake. Although the risk of rejection is zero, that doesn't alter the value of the exercise. Publication invites inclusiveness. It is, of course, manipulative. It asks the party a question to which the leader long ago dictated the answer. But its wide circulation will mean that everybody knows the score. The document is full of small ideas, another Blair hallmark. The Big Idea, once desperately sought in the battering-ram to smash Thatcherism, is nowhere to be found. Relief from the duty to produce one has been provided by the "focus groups" of voters, the party's incessant consultation with whom supply the data for its

moral position. The focus groups, it turns out, don't like big ideas. Their preference, repeatedly expressed, is for modest schemes that have some chance of happening, rather than the expansive promise which nobody believes. This is a helpful reinforcement for the kind of politics that makes a relatively modest estimate of the iniquities of the status quo. A late draft of The Road even said that the programme here presented was "limited" as well as "practical". Someone had the sense to see that "limited" was an abnegation too far, and got the word excised. But the instinct behind it was eloquent. It spoke for Mr Blair's five-year mantra, uttered to anyone he came across, against the betrayal myth that has dogged all his predecessors, who fought elections on promises they knew were undeliverable. Blair wants everyone to understand that he is getting his betrayal in first, before not after the election, and having it endorsed by secret ballot. Thus far, the strategy is intelligible. As the critical path for a cause in terminal trouble, the course Blair set was ambitious to revoke the history of the party, unambitious to disturb the future of the nation. The two were connected. They dictated a stance that

was, above all, defensive. New Labour has been dominated by the desire to give offence to no one, and if proof were needed of its success the infantile desperation of this week's Tory riposte, The Road to Ruin, supplies it. Defence, however, is no longer either necessary or sufficient for a party holding steady at 30 points ahead, and preparing at last to govern. The Road to the Manifesto will be a failure if the party it announces remains locked into negative promises born of a continuing failure of self-confidence. The omens are not good. What happened last week in Scotland revealed a leadership gripped by neurotic anxiety. Committing to a de-volution referendum is justifiable, but asking a separate question about tax can have sprung from no other source

### The paradox this exhibits is hard to decipher, for Tony Blair is not a risk-averse politician

than a fear that has nothing to do with Scotland. The tax issue is well understood in Scotland. A tax-raising parliament is the only route to accountable politics. What the leadership feared was linguistic bleed-across to England, tax and Labour mentioned in a single breath, somehow working their mischief way into the consciousness of the Home Counties. A fantastic proposition. When I heard this decision, I felt for the first time that the clammy hand of political cowardice might, after all, reach to the heart of



Is it Jimmy? Is it James? Can they really be the same person? Denis MacShane finds that the Goldsmith manifesto on Europe has lost, or gained, something in translation

# The altered ego

WILL the real Sir James Goldsmith show himself? Both Conservative and Labour anti-Europeans are being seduced by the Goldsmith campaign, through the free trade wing of the Conservative Party is waking up to the fact that their hero is a keen protectionist — as Sir Michael Spicer MP pointed out, to Goldsmith's fury, earlier this week.

But the real problem is that there are two Goldsmiths, as indicated by a textual analysis of his political manifesto, The Trap. The English edition, published by Macmillan, states that the book was first published in Paris in 1993. Yet Le Piège (the French word for trap) is not the same book as The Trap. Even the author's name is slightly different. The French version is by Jimmy Goldsmith, the English version by James Goldsmith. A side-by-side reading of the texts reveals that Jimmy and James often seem at odds with each other. In the French version, Jimmy says he "wants a strong Europe" which can "protect its economy against America and Japan as well as

developing countries". He agrees that Brussels should have "central powers" to control "diplomacy and defence", the latter "consisting exclusively of European military forces". Anti-Americanism is a unifying theme for Jimmy. "European diplomacy is a tool" allowing "a re-united Europe to protect itself" from American attempts "to impose global free trade". Jimmy insists that "Euro-

French Jimmy says he 'wants a strong Europe which can protect its economy'

pean authorities need strong powers" to make the single market work, and he calls for a "European Central Bank" which will prevent "competitive devaluations" such as the pound sterling has enjoyed since 1992. Convergence criteria laid down by Maastricht "must be maintained. Each country should seek to attain and respect the criteria." None of these clear policy

statements appears in the The Trap. English James, for example, is hostile to the European Parliament, whose work is "either a waste of time or downright destructive" — words which do not appear in the French text, where Jimmy is rather keen on European institutions. So much so that he wants a new super-body, a "European Senate", to increase oversight of Brussels. English James has sensibly dropped this proposal, which is unlikely to win friends among the anti-European press and politicians in London.

French Jimmy isn't too keen on allowing the central and eastern European nations into the EU. Instead, he thinks they should create their own "common market" and that, rather than open its own frontiers, the European Union should slap a variety of tariffs on imports from the new democracies. Jimmy is remarkably contemptuous of British Conservatives who suffer from "colonial nostalgia" for their free trade "ideological heritage". He is "horrified" at "British publicity encouraging overseas firms to invest in Britain". Ministers, protests Jimmy, "describe Britain as a low wage country with the

weakest social rights in Europe. It's as if they want to depict England as the Mexico of Europe." Wisely, James keeps this anti-Tory stuff out of the English "translation". On the other hand, Jimmy is quite clear which country should lead Europe: not England, where "an economic and social crisis is only just beginning", but France, because he "places his hopes in France and the French". This praise of France is unaccount-

English James either leaves out or softens the ruminations on nationhood

ably missing from the English edition. There are other more worrying bits in the French version. Jimmy is not too keen on "women leaving their homes", even if this brings about economic growth. And while he says he is no racist, he does "accept racial differences" and writes approvingly of the efforts in South Africa by Chief Buthe-

to create a Zulu nation against the "Serbian" domination by Nelson Mandela. Jimmy is keen on the moves in Italy and Belgium to break up the "artificial states" of Europe, and hints that a breakaway by Bavaria would help reduce German power. James either leaves out or softens Jimmy's ruminations on nationhood. The difference in tone between James and Jimmy are to be seen on nearly every page. The perfectly clear French adjective *primatif*, which Jimmy likes to apply to Third World people, is translated by James as "primal", something quite different. Of course, few British politicians or journalists have had the time to read both books. Neither the French nor the English version has an index, so tracking these differences is difficult. Moreover, the order of the various sections is quite different in the two books. But comparison is worth the effort because English James is a very different writer from French Jimmy. The Trap and Le Piège share the same title — but they are not the same book.

Denis MacShane is Labour MP for Rotherham

# Warm fronts with chilling prospects



Francine Stock

TEENAGERS get ecology like acne. Twenty-five years ago, the fate of the planet worried me rather more than my skin did. Since then, at regular intervals, the climate change scares have blown in and out, a few points up and down on the temperature projection, with warnings of storms ahead. Every so often, a president or a prime minister appears and utters resolute and reassuring words. But like a hole in the ozone layer for anyone who doesn't know how to measure it, climate change is a concept so vast and abstract as to defy prolonged contemplation. It frightened the hell out of us — but was it there or not?

Now John Gummer has spoken and it is so. The Cotswolds and Suffolk will be growing maize and sunflowers by 2025. Europe's climate will have migrated to the north by some 150 miles. Forget the wangling of lobbyists and propagandists, this is not a matter for debate; it is too late. The north will get wetter, the south drier. Pollution already in the atmosphere will take care of that. It is the very real demonstration that there is no longer any such thing as Nature. Every part of our environment, from ice-crystals at the Poles to fox-gloves in the garden, is touched by man's intervention. Adieu to the snowy owl and ta-ta to the ptarmigan, welcome to the malarial mosquito. Gerald Manley Hopkins's list of dappled things — stippled trout and landscape plotted and pieced — might well be lost in the glare of the southern sun.

We need to be inventive to deal with this legacy. Shift the nurseries to Yorkshire, England's new garden; spruce up the southern beaches to strengthen the coastal defences; scrap tidal water-side developments; invest in forestry — timber yields could be up by 15 per cent in the north. If you haven't done so already, get out of arable farming. Houses with wells will be at a premium in meridional England and manufacturers of water butts may even now be designing the Millennium Miser. In the face of adversity, the British get thinking. Or did they? Paintings of the great triumphs of the industrial revolution seem inevitably set against an overcast sky. Humphrey Davy and George Stephenson puzzled over mining lamps in leaden gloom, surely, Babbage and Brunel must have built their great intellectual and engi-

neering constructions in a trough of low pressure. Scientists and engineers may well have looked to the British Isles in the early 19th century because the economic climate was more encouraging than the weatherman's outlook. Had the weather been balmy, would our great inventors have spent so long in the laboratory? If the rain had not run down the windows at Bath, would Jane Austen still have contemplated the intricacies of heart and purse? The constraints of the British climate — its unpredictability, its chill, its sudden gifts of warmth — have spawned not just our favourite conversational opener, but a certain pragmatism among us.

The charm of Wimbledon requires the ceremony of the covers and umbrellas from time to time (a downpour is the perfect backdrop for Cliff's plucky performance). A cricket umpire would be an insubstantial figure without the sweaters. If that grim climate is replaced by the extremes of drought, storm and flood, then we are in for *Storm and Drang* all round.

Scotland, according to the Department of the Environment, can expect a 9 per cent increase in rainfall by the middle of the next century. Much of Ireland should prepare for more cloudbursts too. Wales, all except the north, will be appreciably drier, so a Celtic division is opening up already. Demand for irrigation water in the south will go up by 63 per cent — prompting fierce deal-making between those water companies awash and those desperately seeking their thirsty customers. And who will foot the bill for the great north-south water pipeline?

YET some way or another the money will be found, because we are a relatively rich country. Even in the searing heat of a Sussex noon, workers in the vineyards and sunflower fields will shrug expressively at the problem while they flick away the malarial mosquitoes. Whatever the short term trials, human invention and enterprise will eventually get us out of this mess. After all, it got us into it.

But we are not the problem. The problem lies to the south side of the Mediterranean, where global warming does not simply mean the migration of a few species and a shuffling of agriculture. There, drought and floods will threaten death for millions. To survive they will have to move, and they must move north. Gummer's maps of our future landscape do not include an approaching front of humanity, dreaming of the kind of inconvenience we dread. By our thoughtless consumption, the leading industrialised nations have created this situation, but it is only the prospect of parched lawns that makes us count the cost.

Advertisement for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) featuring a cartoon of a person with a star on their chest and a megaphone. Text includes: 'In the war against poverty, famine, disease, drought and illiteracy, there's one truly formidable weapon. You. At Voluntary Service Overseas, we currently have 1,000 skilled volunteers from engineers to doctors sharing their knowledge everywhere from Kenya to China. For more information about VSO, please call 0901 709 1322. The battle for a fairer world is one that's really worth fighting.' Logo: 'VSO' with 'Voluntary Service Overseas' and 'Creating Sustainable Changing Lives'.

# 10 OBITUARIES

Noel Bott

## Pioneer of wave power

**N**OEL BOTT, who has pioneered the idea of using the renewable energy of the waves to replace fossil fuels, and tried to convert the British government and the scientific establishment.

Head of the electricity utility in Mauritius when it was a British colony, he realised that without energy resources the country was in a perilous position. He devised a plan to harness the waves on the shore. It was abandoned in 1966 on the grounds that the price of oil was falling and it would be cheaper to import it.

In the 1970s the price shot up. Thus did Mauritius pay the price for governmental shortsightedness. If his scheme had been built, it would now be generating electricity, with the "fuel" arriving free.

Bott was an unlikely rebel. He was a distinguished civil and electrical engineer who, like an Edwardian gentleman, he worked on hydro-electrical power in Scotland in the 1930s before going to Mauritius. There he was appalled that a poor island was importing expensive oil. So he studied wave power, a largely unknown technology, with backing and advice from the Ministry of Overseas Development, Crown Agents and the Hydraulics Research Station in Oxfordshire.

Mauritius has a line of reefs fringing the coast and he devised a scheme to join the reefs to the shore by two side-walls, thus turning the enclosed area into a man-made reservoir. From there, the water would be released back into the sea, through openings in the walls, driving a line of turbo-generators.

A similar idea was developed by the Norwegians in 1965 and Bott was delighted

when he saw it working at a site near Bergen. Ignoring his age (78), the cold and icy showers, he leapt up and down with excitement.

Bott put wave power on the map when, in 1976, he presented a paper to the Royal Society of Arts. He explained his research on a subject that was new to most of the scientists in his audience. The paper became a seminal work for everyone engaged in the Government's wave energy programme. It was a year later, and Bott was a prominent participant at all the wave-power conferences.

He argued in the mid-1980s for his plan, whose capacity for energy storage in a reservoir would be preferable, he said, to flywheel storage, which was then more popular. He also suggested that his type of wave-power station, on or close to the shore, was superior to seagoing types, which he believed would not be able to survive for long in the open sea. He was listened to with great respect, even by scientists whose own schemes were based on offshore power stations.

Bott was elected a member of the Royal Institution in 1973 and became a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was also a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He was awarded the OBE in 1986 for his work as a consulting engineer with the Crown Agents.

His wife, Jessie Jenkins MacFarlane, predeceased him and they leave two daughters.

David Ploss

Noel Walton Bott, engineer, born December 9, 1907; died June 7, 1996



A vanished world... a scene from Green's *Yiddish Pop*, starring Molly Picon

Joseph Green

## Yiddisher poppa

**J**OSEPH GREEN, who has died aged 96, was the Billy Wilder of the Yiddish film. He also fancied himself as Sam Goldwyn. He and Goldwyn had similar backgrounds, born into traditional Jewish families in Poland. Their accents were virtually interchangeable and they both had a profound respect for what could be recorded on film.

But where Goldwyn was a world-famous multi-millionaire, Green had a more limited bank account. And where Goldwyn made films for the best part of 60 years, Green achieved everything he did in the film industry in the course of just five.

By the time Green had produced and directed his last movie, there were no audiences left. Hitler and the Holocaust had ensured that the Yiddish language would never again be understood by enough people to make it worthwhile to produce films in the tongue.

For a time though, he seemed to be on to something so good that he did indeed become rich, in more than just money; he was producing an invaluable archive of a vanished world. Three and a half million Jews, practically all of them Yiddish speakers, lived in Poland before the Nazis moved in. A few thousand were still there after the war. Green made four films in the country — his entire original output — between 1937 and 1939. He deliberately rushed the last, *Mamela*, because he was convinced the end of Polish Jewry was nigh.

Born Joseph Greenberg, he went to the US in 1923 with a troupe of Yiddish players from Vilna (now Vilnius), as an actor in its production of

*The Dybbuk*, the classic story of a girl cursed with the spirit of the dead man to whom she had been betrothed.

Two years later he went to Hollywood as a bit-part actor in a string of Jewish roles — his most notable walk-on role was in Al Jolson's *The Jazz Singer*. It was in 1931 that he first thought of making his own movies. The coming of sound made films in which Jews spoke their own language economically viable.

With his first idea he struck gold. He turned a silent Italian Biblical epic called (for American audiences) *Joseph in the Land of Egypt* into a Yiddish sound picture. With a few extra shots using actors from the Yiddish theatre — Greenberg himself played Joseph — and a soundtrack, the picture immediately became a huge hit on New York's Lower East Side and in other places with large Jewish populations. The original producer of the film was so delighted, he gave his Yiddish director and star a print of the picture as payment — with the rights to show it wherever he wanted to do so.

He took it to Canada, where it made even more money than in New York, and then to Poland, where it was positively devoured in every town that it played. One cinema owner asked him how many copies he had of the movie. "Just one," he said. "But you have the negative!" the man asked. Greenberg didn't know what he was talking about. Overnight, the cinema owner had a negative made of the picture, thus allowing him to show it in several places at one time and, theoretically, keep it for posterity.

Flushed with his success and a new found wealth, Greenberg went back to



Green... good deeds

America and, like a lot of the people in Hollywood, changed his name — to Green — and set about making his own films. It wasn't easy as other people were making Yiddish films too. But in 1936 he encouraged one of the brightest figures on the Yiddish stage in New York to make a picture with him. She was Molly Picon (who later played the matchmaker in the film of *Fiddler on the Roof*). Green had a story about a group of itinerant musicians in a Jewish Polish village and rewrote the principal role specially for her. He called the picture *Yiddish On The Fiddle*, the title of an early Irving Berlin song.

By now Green was a businessman. Making the picture in America would mean spending \$250,000 but for \$60,000 he could go on location to Poland. So *Yiddish* and his three other movies, *Der Purimspiel*, *A*

*Brievka der Maman* (*A Letter to Mama*) and *Mamela* were all made in Poland.

Green used real people in his films partly because he believed he could not produce Yiddish films with anyone else. But it was also a means of doing good deeds. Polish Jews were, on the whole, desperately poor. By giving them a few dollars, he was providing charity with dignity. And more than that.

For the wedding scene in *Yiddish On The Fiddle*, he invited the entire Jewish population from miles around to be extras — as guests at the feast. The food they were served was supplied by the local kosher caterer. Every time a scene had to be reshoot, food, freshly cooked, was brought in. There were more retakes of that scene than in any other in the history of the Yiddish film.

Green died in 1996. His wife, Anne, died in 1984. Green, film-maker, born April 23, 1900; died June 20, 1996

Major-General Tito Okello

## Soldier who ousted Amin

**W**HEN Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni was campaigning for re-election earlier this year, he shocked many Ugandans by announcing that he intended to use Major-General Tito Okello, the military ruler he had overthrown a decade earlier, as one of his advisers.

Okello, who has died of a heart condition aged 82, was armed forces commander under President Milton Obote during the 1960s and led a ruthless and indiscriminate campaign to put down Museveni's National Resistance Army's insurgency. The Ugandan army's conduct brought charges that brutality against civilians had reached even more gruesome levels than under the Idi Amin dictatorship.

But Museveni had already made his peace with Okello, who had returned from exile under a 1984 amnesty. And the gesture was largely symbolic, since Okello was already fatally ill. Yet by offering Okello a renewed role, Museveni acknowledged a debt to a fellow military officer. By first spearheading the Ugandan National Liberation Army's 1979 invasion of the country — which toppled Amin — and then in 1985 overthrowing Obote, Okello had paved the way, albeit unwittingly, for Museveni's own accession and heralded a period of relative stability.

Okello was the sixth of eight children born in northern Uganda and after primary education began work as a cotton sales clerk. But like many of his fellow members of the Acholi tribe — who formed the backbone of the British colonial army in Uganda — he joined the King's African Rifles in 1940. He fought with the British army during the second world war in Somalia and Burma. After further service in Kenya he returned to Uganda and, on independence in 1962, became a lieutenant in the newly formed Ugandan army. He is remembered by British officers as a soldier with immense respect for his training who was very good at arranging passing-out ceremonies and the Independence Day parade.

He was rapidly promoted and in 1970 President Obote appointed him chief of staff. But when Idi Amin, another former King's African Rifles soldier, seized power the following year, he fled with Obote to Tanzania. As the world watched Amin's barbarity with increasing horror, Okello, with Tanzanian backing, assembled the force of exiled Ugandans which became the invading army.

Ten came Okello's second tenure as army commander under Obote. Museveni's Uganda Patriotic Movement was one of the opposition parties which claimed that the 1980 election was massively rigged. Museveni returned to the bush to launch his National Resistance Army and soon gained ground in the Luwero Triangle just north of the capital. The national army took terrible retribution against civilians in the area and in the escalating conflict Okello's Acholi



Okello... hot seat

officers complained that they were bearing the brunt of the casualties. In 1985 Obote reportedly told his officers: "If you want to take over this chair you can bring your guns and take it... but it is very hot."

Okello took him at his word and on July 27 mounted a coup and took over as chairman of a military council. He justified the coup by claiming that Obote had tried to create tribal factions within the army so as not to hold scheduled elections.

The military council lasted barely six months, its leadership marked by ineptitude, factionalism and the lack of coherent policy. Despite Okello's promise to hold free elections, he was outmanoeuvred within the council and by Museveni, who refused to join it. Okello then took the desperate step of accepting help from former Amin soldiers. Museveni was further alienated and divisions in the council became deeper. Through Okello's weakness, Museveni's guerrilla campaign gained ground and, when Okello's army crumbled in 1986, he took power.

Okello fled initially to Sudan, from where he intended to return with a new army to Uganda. Later, however, he reconciled himself to exile in Tanzania before accepting President Museveni's amnesty offer.

Julian Marshall

Major-General Tito Lutwa Okello, soldier, born 1914; died June 3, 1996

### Letter

**Manuel Gasano writes:** For the record, Ella Fitzgerald's first marriage (October 1947) was annulled after about six months, rather than two years. Your fine obituary showed just how much Ella had to overcome in her personal life to make a successful career over 60 years. She had talent and a loving, giving heart and yet Ella was genuinely surprised that anyone liked her singing. Such humility is rare in the world of entertainment.

### Death Notices

**BARON** — June 30th. Peacefully in St James Hospital, Leeds, after a long illness. Michael, dear husband of Julia and widower of Elizabeth. In company with the field of journalism. Funeral service in St James Cathedral, Crumlington on Tuesday, 9 July at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers for Yorkshire Evening Post and Heart Appeal or the Cochrane Hospital Fund.

**LOVER** — John Lovelace F.R.C.S. Emeritus. Suffered a stroke. University of Sheffield. Suddenly and peacefully on July 2. Beloved husband of Joan. Private family funeral. Cremation on Tuesday, 9 July at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers for the Yorkshire Evening Post and Heart Appeal or the Cochrane Hospital Fund.

**FRIDMAN** — Jack MA died peacefully 30 VI 1996 in hospital. Gratified and grateful for the care received. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

### Birthdays

**M**to place your announcement, telephone 0171 715 4867 Fax 0171 715 4128



Bott... bid to harness the sea for energy

Len Creed

## The bookie's big winner

**L**EN CREED, who has died aged 79, will be remembered not least as the man who brought Viv Richards to England, to join Somerset in 1973. Creed was an extroverted, rosy-cheeked Bath bookmaker, the son of a farmer and the county vice-chairman. When he went to Anti-

gua with his wife on holiday, he had a cutting from a cricket magazine which said that Colin Cowdrey had been impressed by a young Antiguan. "I'd never heard of the lad," said Creed, "and didn't know the proper way to pronounce Antiguan." But Creed jumped into a taxi at

the airport and asked the driver how to find the crash-bazng player who used to sing in the cathedral choir.

Within 24 hours, the whole island seemed to know that an official from Somerset was thinking of taking Richards back to England. In fact, Creed did

it entirely on his own initiative without the backing of Somerset, though the county later reimbursed his fare.

Creed watched Richards in a match out there. Eager to make an impression, Richards jumped out and was stamped by a mile. But the umpire, a friend of his, shot his head — to help ensure a ticket to England. Sly and unworldly in those days, he played for the old Bath club, Lansdown, while qualifying for Somerset; Creed found him a girlfriend and in return

he helped to roll the wicket. In his first match for Somerset, at Swansea, he made 91 and Brian Close made the players line up to cheer him in. Creed, the tough old bookie, was in tears.

Creed, who later became chairman of Somerset, said: "I was able to dine out on my recruitment success for years — I just knew he was a world class player."

David Foot

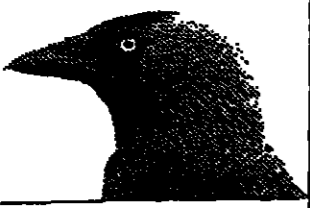
Len Creed, bookmaker, born April 24, 1917; died June 3, 1996

### Birthdays

**RENE** Arnoux, racing driver, 48; Lord Barber, former Conservative Chancellor, 76; Alec and Eric Bedser, cricketers, 78; Irving Caesar, lyricist, 101; Richard Clothier, chief executive, Daigety, 51; Janet Cohen, banker, broadcaster and writer, 56; Alan Goodlad MP, government whip, 63; Lord Hankey, former diplomat, 91; Roy Henderson, baritone, 97; David Jensen, disc jockey, 46; Duncan Lamont, composer, 65; Henri Leconte, ten-

sor player, 33; Ute Lemper, singer and actress, 33; Gina Lollobrigida, actress, 69; Francis Maude, former Conservative minister, 43; Prince Michael of Kent, 54; Jenny Seagrove, actress, 39; Pam Shriver, tennis player, 34; Neil Simon, playwright, 69; Prof Sir Michael Stoker FRS, pathologist, 78; King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, 78; Tony Van Den Bergh, writer and broadcaster, 80; Colin Welland, actor and playwright, 62; Lord Wyatt of Weford, columnist, chairman, Horserace Totalisator Board, 78.

### Jackdaw



### Onion urge

**O**NIONS have, almost since prehistoric times, been attributed apocryphal properties. They are mentioned in many classic Hindu texts on the art of making love, they were the most used aphrodisiac in Ancient Greece and the Romans seldom used onions alone, and usually after cooking. Thus Apollonius in *De re coquinaria* includes onions cooked in water and

mixed with pine seeds. One exception is the recommendation of the Roman epigrammatist Martial: "If your wife is old and your member is exhausted, eat onions in plenty."

*The Perfumed Garden*, an Arab 18th century erotic manual written by Sheikh al-Nefzawi, bears a testimony to onions. "The member of Abou el-Hellouch has remained erect for thirty days without a break because he did eat onions." More specifically, he ate onions cooked with meat and, for drink, had the juice pressed out of pounded onions mixed with honey. And an even more powerful preparation: Take one part of the juice pressed out of pounded onions and mix it with two parts of purified honey; beat the mixture until the water of the onion-juice has evaporated and let the residue get cool, to be used whenever required.

Be careful. A man using this for several consecutive days will constantly have his member rigid and erect without intermission, the sheik warns (or promises?). Furthermore, the medicine should never be used for three

consecutive days except by old and cold-tempered men. For those who thought onion breath the ultimate turn-off, see *Johan's Guide to Aphrodisiacs* at [www.bart.nl/~sante/aphrodis/aphrohome.htm](http://www.bart.nl/~sante/aphrodis/aphrohome.htm)

### Just say no

**I**LOOKED at the roster. It included twelve extant or forthcoming networks devoted to news — CNN, CNNfn (all financial news), CNNi (a joint venture with Sports Illustrated), BBC World Channel, Dow Jones's WBIS Networkworld International, Global Village Network, MSNBC (the joint venture between NBC and Microsoft that premieres on July 15). All of them, as far as I could tell, were planning to run talk shows or current-affairs programs featuring old white men shouting at one another. CLICK. Six networks dedicated to health, with names like America's Health Network, Fitness Interactive, the Anti-aging Network, the Recovery Network, Fit TV and Jones Health Network. CLICK. Six networks set aside

for transportation: Automotive television, the Auto Channel, Speedvision, the Air & Space Network, Wingspan, and Trax. Re-runs, obscure sporting events and documentaries like on their schedules. CLICK. Even four networks programmed mostly with reruns: Game Show Network, Nick at Nite's TV Land, Classic Sports Network and the Soap Channel. Two hundred networks and nothing on. Two hundred networks! Is there a master plan somewhere, to put something into the water to turn us into video robots and give us three more hours a day to watch TV? Esquire US on America's latest addiction, creating useless networks, spreading to Great Britain.

### Tried & Tested

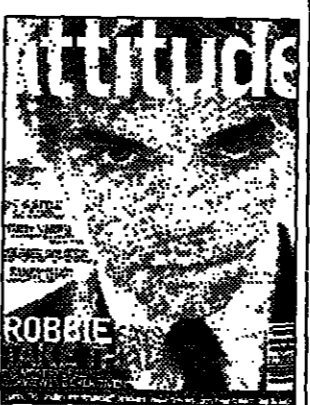
**A**dvertisement Teach Your Grandmother to Suck Eggs. Everybody knows the feeling when at a meeting of local grandmothers yours is the only one unable to suck eggs. But no longer do you have to suffer this embarrassment! The new book — *Egg Sucking*

for Grandmothers will soon have your grandmother sucking eggs with the best of them. The method has been tried and tested on selected grandmothers from the North of England with an average improvement of up to 100 per cent!!! Simply send \$25 in used notes to Egg Offer, and receive your copy by return of post. And if your grandmother should die in the interim, we will refund your money.

**A**dvertisement Do You Suffer From Embarrassing Hair Loss? You are not alone. Millions of men all over Great Britain find themselves with the passage of the years increasingly unable to remember where they left their hair. Consequently they have to go out into the streets bald, with the wind whistling through their ears and the raindrops playing a gay tattoo on their pate. Cries of "Siphead" bounce off the walls, while birds seem to make your crown a particular target.

But baldness misery could be a thing of the past with the new Autoleper 2000, a device that, when attached to the hair, will automatically emit a 350-

decibel warning signal when the front door is opened, enabling the user to easily track down the source of the sound and consequently the hair. This is loud enough to wake night-shift workers in surrounding streets, and there is no danger of it being missed even if your hearing is not what it used to be. The only drawback is that your neighbours might beat the shit out of you. The unobtrusive meet-



Attitude... army game

anism means that never again will you be forced wittingly or unwittingly into the ridicule of heavily bearded rivals. (Prospective buyers should note that the Autoleper as supplied does not work if it is a small black box.)

### Tactical tips

**1.** NEVER trust anyone not to dish the dirt — chaplains, doctors, nurses or even friends. Remember barracks are just one big slumber party and these boys are such terrible gossipers when they get together.

**2.** Don't worry about looking gay. It's acceptable to have hair no longer than No. 2 all the time. But to carry the straight illusion, learn to fart extravagantly and in time with the music — to the tune of Colonel Boosey rather than Big Spender.

**3.** Read up on skirt and sport. Subscribe to Big Jugs, A Fantasy Football team consisting of Eric Cantona, David James, Jamie Redknapp,

Giggles and Ginola might give the game away.

Cottage queens beware. Military Police carry out camera surveillance operations of toilets and cruising grounds near army bases. Not the sort of skin flick you'd want to star in. Gay pubs are also raided, so don't be seen in the Mucky Duck in Aldershot.

**5.** It might be one of your fantasies to be slapped about a bit by a man in a uniform, but if you come under suspicion and the Military Police start to ask questions about your personal life, you could be wise to get civilian legal advice.

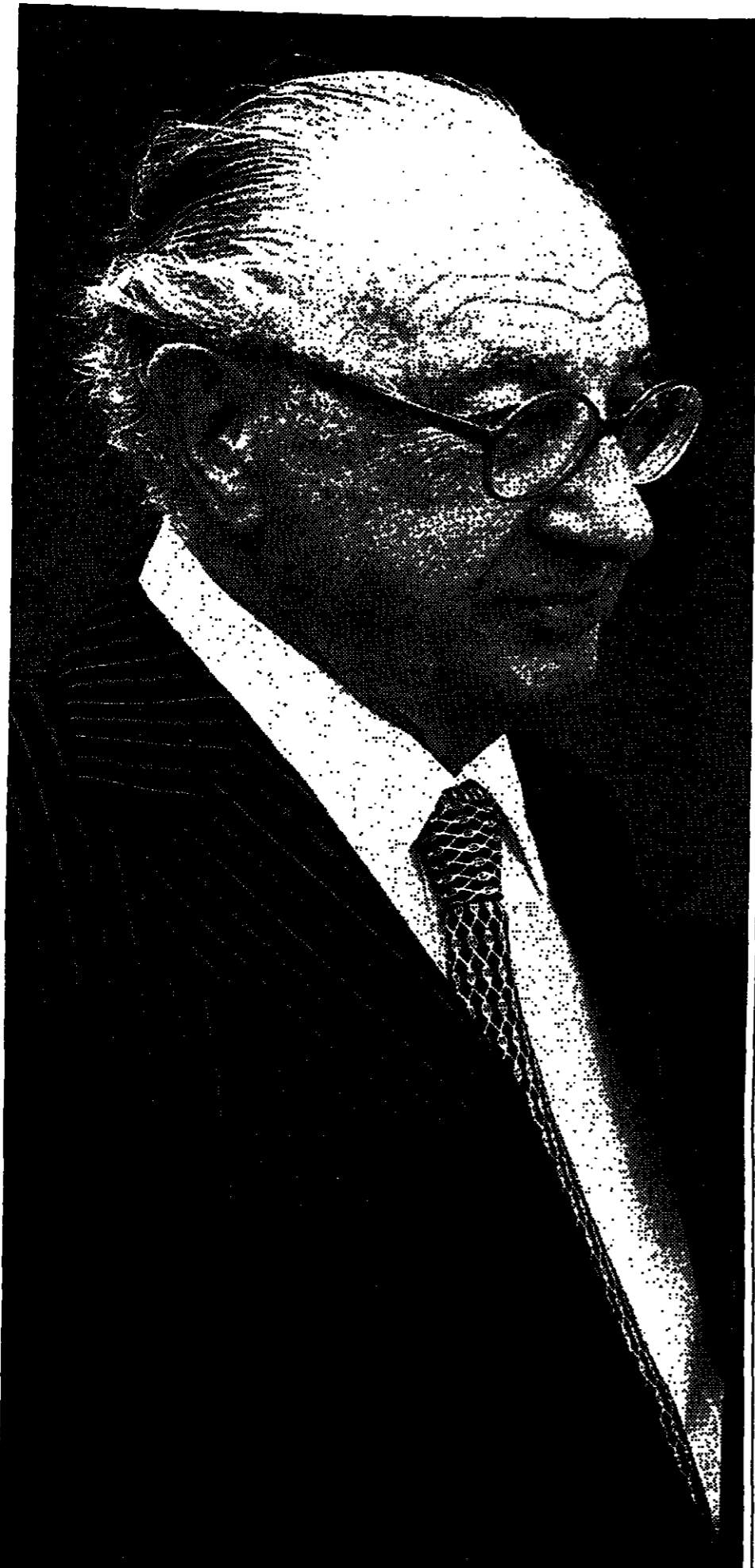
Think long and hard about what you are doing in the Forces in the first place. Mark White in *Attitude* (teaching tactics on how to survive as a gay in the Armed Forces).

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail [jackdaw@guardian.co.uk](mailto:jackdaw@guardian.co.uk); fax 0171 715 4866. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Torrington Road, London EC1R 3ER.

### Emily Sheffield

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
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Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Weinstock's £1bn finale



Sparkling farewell... Lord Weinstock leaves record GEC profits. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID SILLITOE

LORD Weinstock yesterday delivered record profits and a booming order book plus a surprisingly high dividend increase as his farewell after 23 years in charge of the electrical and electronics group GEC. He will become chairman emeritus after handing over as managing director in September to former Rover and Lucas chief executive George Simpson.

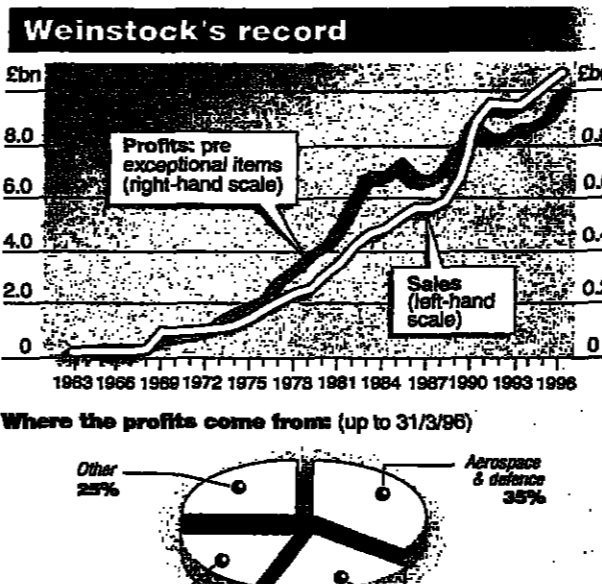
GEC chairman Lord Prior said yesterday: "His experience in industry is unrivalled and his 23-year record of achievement as managing director speaks for itself. Mr Simpson will enjoy the full support of the board and his predecessor as he assumes what I regard as the most important position in British industry."

Profits broke the £1 billion barrier for the first time, almost £100 million higher than last year, before deducting a £48 million provision for contract disputes, believed to be mainly concerned with European Fighter

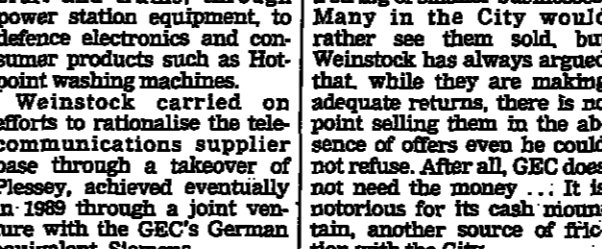
Aircraft development. The increase came entirely from GEC's three main businesses, and especially GEC-Marconi aerospace and defence electronics operations. The division was boosted last year by the acquisition of warship yard VSEL, which added £60 million of the £94 million increase.

The telecoms joint venture with Siemens of Germany produced £10 million extra profit, while profits at power joint venture GEC-Alsthom rose £20 million to £177 million. Smaller businesses continued to disappoint as the Hotpoint and Creden divisions saw profits fall to £11 million.

Lord Weinstock's legendary cash mountain shrank slightly, due mainly to the VSEL acquisition. But GEC still had more than £1.1 billion in the bank at year-end, plus a further £1.5 billion in the joint ventures. Investors were cheered by the dividend increase and the share price closed up 12p at 383p, a little below April's record 378.5p.



Where the profits come from (up to 31/3/96)



## Regulators link up to plug gaps

FOR some time financial regulators have been under pressure of events to cooperate not just across national boundaries but also across industry divides. Market globalisation and banks which own securities houses, for example, have forced the great and the good within both the banking and securities industries to ponder ways of working together effectively. There have been a number of occasions — BCCI and Barings, for instance — which have exposed the gaps in the framework.

In that sense yesterday's announcement that the deputy governor of the Bank of England, Howard Davies, will join the Securities and Investments Board while SIB's chairman, Sir Andrew Large, will be given a seat on the Board of Banking Supervision is no more than a formal acknowledgement of the developing trend towards closer cooperation. The recent, but less widely publicised, formation of a small team drawing on staff from the SIB, the Securities and Futures Association and the Stock Exchange, aimed at providing early warning of suspected market abuse, is another example of similar thinking.

None-the-less the seniority of those involved in the cross appointments announced yesterday underline the importance, which the UK authorities attach to strengthening the links between those responsible for different areas of the financial services industry.

According to Sir Andrew, however, it is not just the links between regulators that need strengthening. SIB is clearly frustrated about the limits on regulators' powers to investigate organisations or individuals suspected of abusing the markets they supervise (either through manipulation or insider dealing) but which are not authorised by the appropriate regulatory authority. Unauthorised firms or individuals fall within the remit of the criminal system, rather than the regulators.

It is clear Sir Andrew would like that to change, not by deregulating markets, but by giving the regulators civil powers to pursue those who currently fall outside its scope.

## Quick £2m for mines chief

RICHARD BUDGE, chief executive of RJB Mining — the group which now owns most of Britain's coal mines — yesterday scooped more than £2 million when he sold a tenth of his stake in the group as part of a share buy-back scheme.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,917.5	France 7,780	Italy 2,339	Singapore 2,149
Austria 1,826	Germany 7,005	Japan 2,575	South Africa 454
Belgium 2,735	Greece 985.20	Netherlands 2,575	Sweden 183.50
Canada 2,022	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.21	Switzerland 1.92
Cyprus 0.700	India 54.25	Norway 8.870	Switzerland 1.825
Denmark 8,810	Ireland 0.9445	Portugal 238.00	Thailand 121.643
Finland 7,180	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.52

## Utilities offer fresh impetus to top pay bonanza

THE pay bonanza in the utilities took on some fresh momentum yesterday when two companies disclosed huge rises for directors and began the process of setting up new executive bonus schemes.

## US pick-up hits rate cut hopes

especially given renewed buoyancy in the housing market, a busier high street and tentative signs that manufacturing is emerging from the doldrums.

## Diamond sales break class barrier

DIAMOND sales soared more than 10 per cent in Britain during the first three months of this year, supporting suggestions that the feel-good factor has finally returned.

### Notebook

## Regulators link up to plug gaps

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# 12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

## Tube points failure brings a reward for Sainsbury shareholders

**DAVID** Sainsbury (right) told shareholders who beat yesterday's London Tube strike to attend the company's annual general meeting that they had won an extra 500 points on their Reward Card accounts, writes *Pauline Springett*.

The supermarket group launched the loyalty card two weeks ago, more than a year after its rival Tesco started its scheme. Mr Sainsbury, the chairman, said 3.5 million customers had registered for the card.

The scheme was criticised by some shareholders who said it was unfair to smaller customers because a minimum of £5 had to be spent before points were awarded.

Mr Sainsbury said 16 new supermarkets would open this year.



Nigel Matthews

# EU muscles in on BA deal

**Julie Wolf in Brussels and Keith Harper**

**T**HE European Commission yesterday stirred up fresh trouble with the British government by insisting on its right to veto the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

Neil Kinnock, transport commissioner, and Karel Van Miert, competition commissioner, have agreed to open an anti-trust investigation into six global alliances be-

tween European and American carriers, including the BA-American Airlines deal after the 20-strong commission voted unanimously to give them the go-ahead.

The BA-AA deal is already being reviewed by the Office of Fair Trading and US anti-trust authorities. The OFT has made it clear that the alliance is a domestic issue and that the Government is unlikely to brook interference from Europe.

BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, said he was untroubled by the news, but thought it was better for national gov-

ernments to scrutinise deals. The commission will look into whether the agreements break EU competition rules by creating a dominant market position.

Mr Van Miert said the commission had no objection in principle to the transatlantic deals, but "there is no doubt" they restrict competition because the carriers involved agree to cooperate on the routes they share.

Mr Van Miert and Mr Kinnock defended the EU's right to intervene in the alliance between BA and American, as well as five other alliances,

even though the deals involve flights outside the EU. They said article 85 of the EU's founding treaty gives the commission the power to investigate suspected breaches of European competition rules. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg has already backed the use of this article in the airline sector, the commissioners said.

The UK has strongly opposed the commission's drive to play a bigger role in transatlantic air transport relations, and was outvoted last month when EU transport

ministers agreed to give Mr Kinnock a limited mandate for airline liberalisation talks with the US.

The commission's latest move is especially controversial as it could allow Brussels to muscle in on the "Open Skies" negotiations between the US and Britain. This is because any conditions set by the commission are likely to involve issues covered by the open skies talks such as slots and access to routes.

In the case of BA and American Airlines, Mr Kinnock said the commission would want to "see to it that (air-

line) companies in Europe aren't unfairly disadvantaged" because of the deal or any open skies agreement reached between the US and Britain.

The investigation will extend to existing alliances between Lufthansa of Germany and United Airlines; Scandinavian Airline System and United Airlines; KLM Royal Dutch Air Lines and Northwest Airlines; British Airways and US Air; and a venture including Swissair of Switzerland, Sabena of Belgium, Austrian Airlines and Delta Airlines.

# BR writes off £500m on Channel tunnel freight

**Keith Harper Transport Editor**

**T**HE taxpayer has been landed with a further bill for £500 million to offset freight business debts incurred by British Rail to pay for lease-making trips through the Channel tunnel.

This sum has been agreed with the Government by BR

because it does not think rail freight can make much money over the next few years. BR's Railfreight Distribution (RFD) network, which is responsible for international business, lost £59 million last year on a turnover of £70 million.

International rail freight cannot compete with road. It costs around £2,000 to send freight by rail from Manches-

ter to Milan, but BR is surcharged £800 for each freight wagon that goes through the tunnel.

BR's chairman, John Welsby, said that rail freight tonnage through the tunnel was only half of that forecast 10 years ago. In addition, it faced severe competition from ferry companies taking freight on the Dover-Calais route, and it had to pay

£30 million a year until 2006 to use the tunnel for freight business.

He said that BR had taken "a long and serious look" at the prospects for Railfreight Distribution and had concluded that there was very little chance of the business recovering the financial liabilities of its investment.

Taking this into account, Mr Welsby disclosed that it

had made provision for losses of £300 million on the asset value of RFD along with a further £200 million on usage charges.

BR's annual report, the final one in its present form, stresses that the projections now indicate that BR's investment in Channel tunnel freight assets is unlikely to be recoverable.

Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, said: "This is another sickening sweetener to ensure that the industry is sold. The Government is guilty of a staggering abuse and waste of funds with no concern for the future of freight on rail."

BR is down to a core of five

executive and two non-executive board members. By next April, it will have disappeared almost completely into the private sector. Three quarters of the passenger network has still to be sold, but freight, Railtrack and BR's rolling stock operations have been transferred to the private sector.

The greatest concern about the future of the industry is contained in the passenger statistics. Receipts have moved little over a year and are £10.40 a mile, but operating expenses at £20.45 are double. BR's finance director, James Jerram, warned that more investment was urgently needed.

# Monarchy pays its way with big rise in profits

**OUTLOOK/ Crown Estate hands over £95m, writes PAULINE SPRINGETT**

**C**HRISTOPHER Howes, chief executive of the Crown Estate, has two main messages. The first is that the profit from the estate more than pays for the monarchy. The second is that the estate is now being run with a professionalism to rival that of the biggest names on the British property scene.

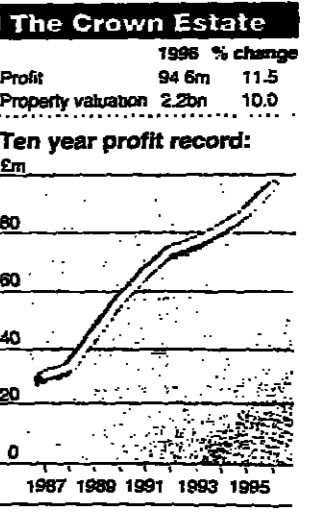
The estate produced an 11.5 per cent increase in profit to £94.6 million for the year to the end of March. This is the sum it pays to the Exchequer. By contrast, the monarchy costs the country about £80 million a year, which comprises the £7.9 million cost of the civil list, plus the extra money needed for state visits and the upkeep of buildings.

Mr Howes, a former head of the land and property division at the Department of the Environment, has been chief executive of the Crown Estate since 1989. Since his arrival the profit has risen steadily. Mr Howes is hopeful it will top £100 million during the current year.

The Crown Estate is such a peculiar entity that its performance is hard to assess. It is the largest agricultural landlord in the UK with 300,000 acres of agricultural land in England, Scotland and Wales. It also owns a string of urban shopping centres, housing estates and office blocks. On top of that, the estate has almost half the foreshore plus the seabed out to the 12-mile limit.

Contrary to popular belief, the Crown Estate is not owned by the Queen herself. Instead — thanks to a deal struck in 1760 — the assets belong to reigning monarchs, and are managed by the Crown Estate Commissioners. Their duty is to "maintain and enhance the capital value of the Crown Estate and the income obtained from it".

Mr Howes, who also has the quaint title of second commissioner, is big on the strategy needed to carry out these objectives. Poorer performing properties are being gradually sold and better performing ones bought. The estate has also started property development again, something it put on hold in 1989 just be-



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£1500	£118.10	£5,668.80	19.9%
£2000	£148.16	£6,887.68	12.9%
£2500	£185.16	£8,887.68	12.9%
£3000	£206.68	£9,920.64	19.9%
£3500	£200.69	£9,633.12	17.9%
£4000	£196.39	£9,426.72	16.5%

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## News in brief

### Lower sales deepen troubles for Escom

**TROUBLES** at the computer retailer and manufacturer Escom deepened yesterday when the German-based company announced that it was filing for protection from creditors after uncovering "significant losses" and suffering a shortfall in sales.

The British subsidiary, which announced the closure of 65 stores on Monday, indicated that it would continue in business. In a formal statement the UK board said: "Escom UK confirms that it will continue to trade, and that it has the full support of its banks."

Escom's German parent began insolvency proceedings after it discovered that losses would be as high as DM180 million — and not the DM125 million already announced. Talks with suppliers and banks have failed so far to stabilise the group's position. — *Chris Barrie*

### Banks ease Wickes' plight

**BANKERS** to Wickes, the DIY group hit by accounting irregularities last week, have agreed that the company can draw an additional £18 million in cash from its loan facilities. The company met its 11 banks on Tuesday to discuss the impact of a profit restatement expected to amount to £25 million when auditors Arthur Andersen report next week.

Meanwhile, Wickes reiterated that the misstatement did not affect its cash balances, and that there were no significant cash implications. Michael von Brentano, the company's recently appointed chairman, reported yesterday: "We have made it plain that the accounting issues which have been uncovered should not detract from the fact that our operating businesses are sound." — *Excel*

### Reed links up for US deal

**REED Elsevier** and the Los Angeles-based Times Mirror Company have established a joint venture company to acquire Shepard's, one of the leading legal citation businesses in the US which made profits of about \$41 million last year. The move is expected to lead to a broad-based collaboration between the two companies in the US legal information market.

Reed Elsevier owns Lexis-Nexis, the world's largest provider of online legal news and Times Mirror controls Matthew Bender & Co which is a major legal publisher in America. The two groups already have a deal offering Matthew Bender publications on-line through the Lexis service. — *Lisa Buckingham*

### Air France unions call strike

**FOUR** unions at Air France Europe have called a 24-hour strike for today, an Air France spokesman said. Air France is due to unveil plans for rescuing the loss-making domestic and regional airline today amid union fears of a merger.

A joint union statement said that all Air France Europe workers were being called out on a 24-hour strike to demand that decisions to close routes be reversed and merger plans be dropped immediately. Air France Europe pilots this week forced the group chairman, Christian Blanc, to scrap plans to launch a new European carrier in 1997 when they rejected contracts cutting pay by 15 per cent. — *Reuter*

## Underside

### Dan Atkinson

**T**HE scandal at do-it-yourself chain Wickes, caused largely by the company's do-it-yourself approach to accounting, will have come as no surprise to readers of *DIY Week*. This publication has justifiably been blowing its own trumpet in recent days about an item in the October 28 1994 issue that concluded: "I wonder if Wickes shareholders are aware that part of this year's profit is a contribution for sales anticipated through to 1996?"

Spot on, but given that *DIY Week* unearthed this hot story, why did it banish it to page 32?

### No rest (well, not much anyway) for the Mastercard football squad; hardly was Euro 96 out of the way than the plastic people's soccer-sponsorship experts were packed off for a fortnight's leave. On their return they are to head straight for Paris, to begin work on World Cup 98.

**W**HAT'S French for "Always look on the bright side of life"? The July-August issue of *Revue Aerospaciale*, the house mag of the eponymous aero-giant — reports Europe's June 4 space-race fiasco thus: "After a fault-

less lift-off, the Ariane 501 launcher deviated from its planned trajectory and had to be destroyed. This setback... in no way compromises the programme."

What would it take for revenue to report a £500 million catastrophe?

**C**REDITORS of the troubled Sunday Business newspaper, currently barred from demanding repayment by the fact that the title is in administration, will be delighted to learn that editor/publisher Tom Ruythoff is guest of honour later today at a dinner to be held by the International Building Staff. The first issue of *Sunday Business* appeared on schedule on April 21, reads the blurb, "despite a preceding media blitz of scare stories over its financial backing."

Aha, so the "scare" weren't true, then?

**F**RIDAY'S 50th birthday party for the Government's propaganda outfit, the Central Office of Information, may be a less than Gatsby-esque event, we hear. Hard-pressed COI staff — 53 per cent responded to a recent request for voluntary plank-walkers — were delighted to receive impressive printed invitations from outgoing chief executive Mike Deveraux. One told us: "We assume it was a small reward for 50 years' good work and a chance to let our hair down and say our goodbyes in many cases."

News of the pay-bar did not go down well.

**O**N THE topic of public enlightenment, one of our most respected spin-doctors recently found himself in conversation with a nurse. Resigned already to sharing the "PR" title with Propaganda Representation (the everyone's-a-winner voting system) and Pain Relief (the stuff rugby types spray on their calf muscles), he was alarmed to learn that in angel circles, PR is an instruction as to the conduit for medicines: Per Rectum.



July 4 1996



Rough landing... Jim Naylor, the stroke of the Sons of the Thames, is wheeled away after suffering an asthma attack at the end of a narrow Britannia defeat

Eton boats on song as Canford heed wake-up call and Harrison finds the right beat

Christopher Dodd at Henley
ETON lit up the Royal Regatta yesterday when they rowed down the Championship Course...

disallowed the appeal and the stewards said there was no objection to students rowing for club crews.
All the selected (seeded) crews survived in the Princess Elizabeth...

ine Duncan Nicol of Upper Thames narrowly beat the 17-year-old Hungarian Peter Ujhelyi, who has been sponsored to attend Bedford Modern School by his country's rowing federation.

Yarmouth runners and riders with form

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 2.00 Parkway Lass, 2.30 Saratoga Springs, 2.30 Yarmouth Abbey, 3.00 Hippo, 4.00 Blockade, 4.30 Sevens, 5.00 Principally Affair.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 5.00 KILLING LADY HANDICAP, 5.00 MURKIN HANDICAP, 5.00 MURKIN HANDICAP, 5.00 MURKIN HANDICAP.

Catterick

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 2.15 Abstone Again, 2.45 Catterick Hill, 2.45 PERFECT GIFT, 2.45 RAINBOW HOPE.

Racing

Charnwood Forest ducks the Eclipse

perhaps scaring off the opposition and Godolphin have decided not to pit Charnwood Forest against him in what would have been their first attempt at a mile and a quarter. The York International is now seen as a more suitable race for the impressive Queen Anne winner.

Ayr tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 6.35 BIP COLOURS MAIDEN STAKES, 7.05 SCARLA 1300 TROPHY, 7.35 SCARLA 1300 TROPHY, 8.05 RELIABLE VEHICLES FOR SCARLA CLAIMING STAKES.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 7.35 SCARLA 1300 TROPHY, 8.05 RELIABLE VEHICLES FOR SCARLA CLAIMING STAKES, 8.35 LOANWHEEL MAIDEN STAKES.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Races include CATERICK, 2.50 (1st) BLUE ROSSIER, 2.50 (2nd) BLUE ROSSIER, 2.50 (3rd) BLUE ROSSIER.

Haydock tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 6.50 GUYON APPOINTMENT HANDICAP, 7.20 SCARLA 4-GIRDES HOOPERPOWER SELLING STAKES, 7.50 SCARLA 1000 TROPHY.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Races include 6.50 GUYON APPOINTMENT HANDICAP, 7.20 SCARLA 4-GIRDES HOOPERPOWER SELLING STAKES, 7.50 SCARLA 1000 TROPHY.

4.00 CATFISH CLAIMING STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 4.00 CATFISH CLAIMING STAKES, 4.30 HAPPELBERG MAIDEN STAKES, 4.30 HAPPELBERG MAIDEN STAKES.

8.35 LOANWHEEL MAIDEN STAKES

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Races include 8.35 LOANWHEEL MAIDEN STAKES, 9.05 SCARLA 4-GIRDES KING OF THE ROAD TROPHY.

MARKET RASEN

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Market Rates. Races include 2.40 (1st) BLUE ROSSIER, 2.40 (2nd) BLUE ROSSIER, 2.40 (3rd) BLUE ROSSIER.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Yarmouth, Catterick, and Haydock racing clubs.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Saints turn to Souness steel

Russell Thomas

THE TIDE of managerial change swept Graeme Souness back into British football yesterday when Southampton entrusted a difficult Premiership future to the Scot's brand of leadership.



Souness... 'I've mellowed'

'Le Tissier is the most talented footballer in Britain and if he is honest he knows he could do more than he did last season'

Souness conceded that Southampton was an unlikely port of call, even though he had expressed an interest in a new start in English football after being sacked after one season in Turkey with Galatasaray.

At Southampton, he said, "it will be very different from anything else I have been used to. The club is smaller than Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers but I can always remember as a player and as a manager that never used to be like coming here much. That's what I aim to carry on doing."

on the last day of the season. But Souness was rapidly persuaded by the club's director of football Lawrie McMenemy. "It took me only five minutes in Lawrie's company to convince me about taking the job. He is passionate about the game, and so am I."

McMenemy returned the compliment. "Graeme was the first and only man we interviewed for the job. The players report back for training on Monday and we felt it was important to appoint someone who everyone respects — players and fans alike."

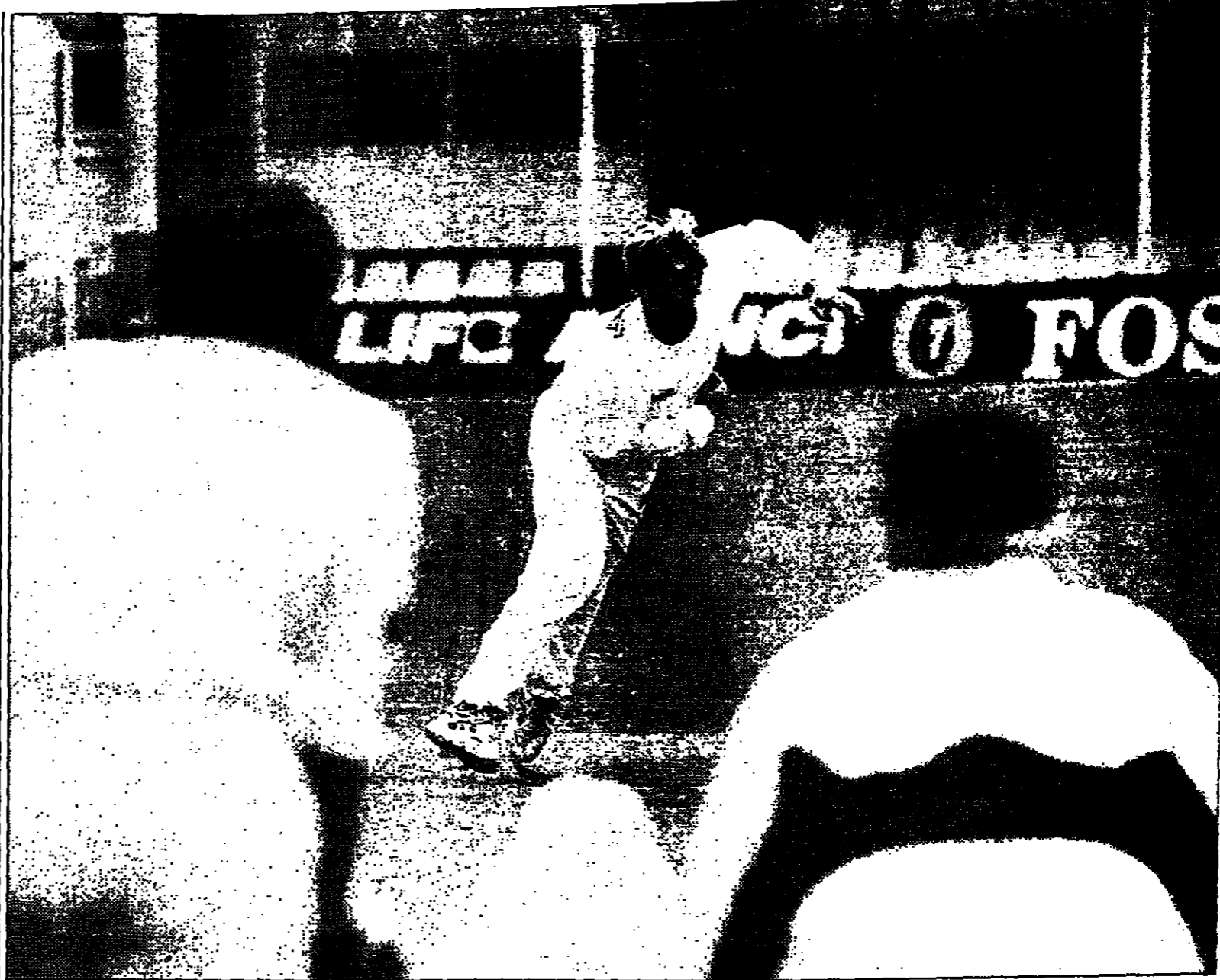
Souness played down the inequality of spending power in the Premiership; nevertheless this will be an intriguing test of his buying acumen. After his much-criticised £20 million wheeler-dealing at Liverpool, he will have an initial £3 million to spend at Southampton.

An examination of his management ability, too. An uncompromising, abrasive approach upset many senior players at Liverpool, quite apart from his abandonment of several Anfield traditions, before he left early in 1994.

But the 43-year-old Souness said: "I'm definitely a different character from the man I was last time in England. I am more experienced and I think I am less excitable than I was maybe five years ago. Maybe I am prepared to listen to other people more than I have ever done."

"Don't forget I was very young when I first became a manager with Rangers. I think I am a better manager now, but, of course, only time will tell."

After George Graham scored Southampton's interest in Souness as first choice, ahead of two other Scots, Joe Jordan and Lou Macari, for the post vacated when Dave Merrington was sacked three weeks ago.



Flick of the wrist... Ian Salisbury goes through his paces at Trent Bridge before being omitted from England's team

PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

Atherton plays forward to leggie

Mike Selvey at Trent Bridge on why Ian Salisbury was deemed surplus to requirements for the third Test against India starting today

THE Hyde Park old farts concert last weekend was probably not the place for fresh-faced young Sussex lads who do not list nostalgia trips in their Who's Who recreation entry, so it is unlikely that Ian Salisbury was there to hear whether or not Bob Dylan chanted Subterranean Homesick Blues down his nasal passages.

Yet his recall came not on the back of a marvellous run for his county but with just 13 first-class wickets — eight in one match — behind him. He is capable of producing a devastating delivery but, like a polish Shane Warne's stepping-out shoes.

A quick glance out of his Nottingham hotel window first thing would have told him all he needed to know: cloud seeding gun-metal clows and driving rain are not a precursor to the sort of bleed-dry conditions a leg-spinner craves.

Test matches in four years, taking just 16 wickets: Narendra Hirwani, India's second-string leggie, managed as many on his debut. The wickets have cost Salisbury almost 80 runs apiece, which just about qualifies him to polish Shane Warne's stepping-out shoes.

Yet his recall came not on the back of a marvellous run for his county but with just 13 first-class wickets — eight in one match — behind him. He is capable of producing a devastating delivery but, like a polish Shane Warne's stepping-out shoes.

He was never going to play this Test, prompting the question of whether his journey was really necessary. The answer, of course, is yes, if cricketers are to receive any

encouragement to strive for betterment. Finger-spinners, as Mike Atherton pointed out yesterday, have not generally won Test matches in recent years. If anyone knocks the pace from their perch, it is the wrists twiddlers: Warne, Kumble, Mushtaq, young Adams, and before that the likes of Abdul Qadir and Hirwani. But the purveyors of this most difficult of arts have to be extremely good if they are not to be a maverick adjunct to a more reliable finger-spinner, and Salisbury, at 26, is not close to that standard.

Give him a couple of years though, with the right encouragement, and he very well might be; to that end England are not going to let him slip away despondent. To be a maverick adjunct to a more reliable finger-spinner, and Salisbury, at 26, is not close to that standard.

He is, said Atherton, "our leg-spinner. The pitch showed no real sign of wear over five

days last year and the likelihood was that we were only ever going to play one spinner. Min Patel was first choice at the start of the series and has done nothing wrong and now it's up to him to do well and try and stay in the side. But with Salisbury, I think it is important that he knows he's our leg-spinner over the medium to long term and we are looking to him to be part of the scene."

Atherton said that hindsight did not make him regret fielding a full hand of seamers at Lord's. "It leaves fewer options for the captain, but I was happy with the make-up of the team and I don't believe that, apart from the over rate, a spinner would have made much difference."

Given that despite the lack of assistance from the pitch Mike Watkinson and Richard Illingworth bowled more than half England's overs against West Indies here last year, Patel will definitely play, and so the only decision this morning — apart maybe from whether or not to wear goggles — is whether they should play the batsman who bowls a bit, Ronnie Irani, or

the bowler who bats a bit, Mark Ealham. Atherton is aware of the dangers of trying to sit on a lead, and will not be content with just trying to close the match down. But with England one up and requiring only a draw, Irani would still seem the likeliest option.

India meanwhile, having discovered, perhaps, the path to the future at Lord's, will persist with Mongia as an opener with Rathore, omit Jadhav and continue to leave out Manjrekar, who turned his ankle in the first Test and watched, glumly no doubt, in the second as Ganguly and Dravid knocked holes in his personal ambition. They have also left out Mhambrey, introducing instead another seamer, Anko, and in a five-man attack that leaves a crocodile's tail will choose this morning between Raju's left-arm spin and Hirwani's leg-spin to complete things.

ENGLAND (from): M Atherton (capt), A J Stewart, N Hoggan, G P Thorne, G A Hick, R C Irani, M Patel, R C Bates, C C Lewis, D G Cork, M M Patel, A D Mullaly. INDIA (from): V S Rathore, M R Mongia, S Ganguly, R S Dhoni, M Mhambrey, M Manjrekar, R S Dhoni, A Kumble, J Srinani, S V Raju, S V Manjrekar.

Chelsea chase Di Matteo as Leeds lasso Bowyer

Mark Redding

CHELSEA are attempting to flout their own traditions by snapping up a Serie A player under the age of 20.

The Blues have set their sights on Roberto Di Matteo, who played for Italy in the European Championship. Yesterday Chelsea's managing director Colin Hutchinson travelled to Rome to talk terms with the Lazio midfielder.

Di Matteo, 26, would join the recent signing Gianluca Vialli (31) and last year's capture and now player-manager Raul Gonzalez (33) among the Italian league old boys at Stamford Bridge. "We've had preliminary discussions with Di Matteo and will see what develops," Hutchinson said. "It was a very

interesting trip and Di Matteo is a very switched-on guy." Robust but skilful, Di Matteo played in Italy's first and last games in Euro 96, but was one of the five players disastrously left out for the intervening defeat by the Czech Republic.

Meanwhile Chelsea sealed the purchase yesterday of France's Frank Leboeuf for a club record £2.5 million from Strasbourg. "I want to win everything at Chelsea because I've never won anything in France," the defender said.

Italy's premature exit from Euro 96 has dropped them from third to fifth in the latest Fifa rankings, while England's domestic heroics have catapulted them 11 places to 13th. Brazil remain top and Germany second. Leeds United have won the race to sign the 19-year-old

Charlton midfielder Lee Bowyer. The Elland Road club, which was taken over in a £20 million deal by the Caspian group this week, will pay £2.6 million for the England Under-21 player. The fee breaks the British record of £2.5 million for a teenager that took John Harrison from Luton to Arsenal in 1995.

"I decided to come to Leeds because I thought I would learn most here from the manager, the players, the coach and all the facilities they have," Bowyer said. His Under-21 team-mate Ben Thatcher has signed for Wimbledon from Millwall for about £2 million. "He's an uncut diamond, but we'll turn him into a polished gem," promised his owner Sam Hammam.

However, the Dons' hopes of taking Steve Lomas from Manchester City for £1.75 million were dashed when the midfielder declined to move.



Di Matteo... robust Italian



Thatcher... uncut diamond

Poborsky United bound

Ian Ross on the Czech midfielder's decision to join the Double winners in £3.6 million deal

KAREL POBORSKY last night agreed to join Manchester United. The £3.6 million transfer of the gifted Czech Republic midfielder from Slavia Prague will be formally completed in Switzerland at the weekend.

After a series of outstanding performances in European Championship finals, the 24-year-old Poborsky chose Manchester United ahead of a number of other clubs, including Lazio.

Poborsky telephoned the United manager Alex Ferguson yesterday evening to say he wished to play in the Premiership next season. Ferguson will take his spending to the Norwegian international central defender Ronnie Johnsen, who plays for Besiktas, arrives from Turkey to complete a £1.5 million transfer. A second Norwegian international, the striker Ole

Gunnar Solskjaer, is still involved in negotiations with the Double winners about a proposed £1.6 million move to Old Trafford.

Meanwhile Ferguson was continuing his dogged pursuit of Alan Shearer, revealing that he had tabled a third bid for the Blackburn Rovers and England centre-forward.

Ferguson, on holiday in Malta, told reporters: "We have made another inquiry. The ball is firmly in Blackburn's court." Blackburn's response has been to issue another statement of their intention to hold on to Shearer. Blackburn's chairman Robert Coak said: "We have had an inquiry from Manchester United but have told them that Alan Shearer is simply not for sale." More significantly, Jack Walker, the power behind Rovers, has said: "There is no way Alan Shearer is going anywhere."

Tour match: Somerset v Pakistanis

Fluent Anwar takes early Shine off

David Foot at Taunton

FIFTY years ago this month the Indians came here and were bowled out before lunch for 64. It was to be an historic innings win by the county against the tourists' finest and is still regularly quoted by those that say they were there.

Yesterday, when Pakistan arrived, the ball did not swing as once it did for Bill Andrews (in a pair of borrowed boots) and Bertie Buse. Instead, there was consummate batting from Saeed Anwar in particular.

The opener had come across the bridge from Pontypridd, where on Sunday he scored an undefeated double hundred. Against Somerset, he was again in a class of his own, aesthetically pleasing in the best Asian tradition, he was eventually bowled for 130

as he went for an exaggerated drive. Cozy in his long-sleeved sweater, overtly hungry for runs, the left-hander repeatedly penetrated the populated off-side field or rolled those dextrous wrists for perfectly executed clips wide of mid-wicket.

The miscellany of good-looking strokes compensated for any rain delay. Anwar's century had come in under three hours with his least assured boundary, one of 21 in total. The stand of 157 with Asif Mujtaba had offset the loss of two early wickets, both to Kevin Shine.

Pakistan, put in by Somerset, suffered an unlikely reverse in the eventful opening over, during which Shine bowled two wides before having Amir Sohail caught at the wicket. With 34 runs of the first four overs, Pakistan had seemed to be treating an under-strength county attack

with minimal respect. Caddick, Rose and Hayhurst were all missing with minor injuries. That meant a recall for Andre van Troost, the beano-poke, left out after the opening championship match of the season.

Shane Lee got the new ball ahead of him, though reward did not come till late afternoon. Then the Australian took out Anwar's off stump, had a slightly casual Inzam-ul-Haq well held by Turner and put an end to Asif Mujtaba's typically conscientious half-century.

Eleven thousand spectators saw the Indians in 1946; you could count them more easily in hundreds yesterday, a reflection on the changing attitudes and bad weather rather than any slight to the attractive opposition. Play ended on 25 for five.

Conversation back in the pavilion was democratically divided between Anwar's innings and the announcement that Somerset have launched their own cricket academy. The first six students, aged 16, have been chosen to undergo a rigorous two-year course and those of them that watched yesterday were offered some timely role models from the sub-continent.

The Sussex fast bowlers Ed Cowley and Paul Jarvis took two wickets apiece as Hampshire slumped to 82 for four from 37 overs on a rain-disrupted first day of the championship match at Arundel.

Will Kendall steered Oxford to a Varsity match record total of 513 for six declared at Lord's. The middle-order batsman took his overnight score from 79 to 164 for three at the close. Andy Flower has resigned after three years. The left-handed batsman had led them in 12 of his 16 Tests.

Scoreboard

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of four; today 11.0)

Table with columns for teams (Sussex v Hampshire, Hampshire), batsmen, runs, and bowling figures.

TOUR MATCHES (First day of three; today 11.0)

Table with columns for teams (Somerset v Pakistanis, Taunton), batsmen, runs, and bowling figures.

NO PLAY, RAIN

VARIOUS MATCHES (Second day of three; today 11.0)

Table with columns for teams (Leeds v Warwickshire, Lancashire v Gloucestershire), batsmen, runs, and bowling figures.

STARTING TODAY

CONNELL ASSURANCE THIRD TEST (11.0) The day's first Test in England will be played on Sunday. CHAMPIONSHIP ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0) Four days: Bedfordshire v Gloucestershire, Lancashire v Warwickshire, Leicestershire v Essex, The Ouse Valley v Middlesex, Bedfordshire v Warwickshire. SHANE WOOD TROPHY (11.0) One day: Cogenhall v Essex.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'fred', 'Cricket', and 'Sport Guardian'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

Athletics

Fredericks flying for Atlanta

Christie off the pace but Mighty Michael pulls Black to British 400m record

Duncan Mackay in Lassauenne

L INFORD CHRISTIE had the tables turned on him here last night...

Fredericks, who had posted his world-record potential when he ran 9.87 on a cold night in Helsinki last week...

Since working with Christie, Fredericks has been performing as though someone has suddenly put his body in fast forward...



Quick step... Fredericks finishes ahead of Christie, back in fifth place, after equalling the second fastest 100m of all time

beat all of them was fantastic," said Fredericks. Leaving aside the 9.79 sham of Seoul, the indications are that, pushed by the same field on the super-fast surface in Atlanta, Fredericks might run faster this summer than Ben Johnson did in Rome nine summers ago when his 9.83, on his own admission, was also tainted.

That is presuming, of course, that Fredericks runs in the 100m. The 1992 double Olympic silver medalist is leaving his options open as late as possible whether to do that distance or the 200m.

breaths as his gold chain bounced on his chest. Passing through the finish line all alone, he held his arms aloft before setting off on yet another victory lap. Black once more confirmed his position as the best quarter-mile outside the United States as he shaved 0.02 off the British record he had set in Birmingham two weeks ago.

Consistency — that's the key to this game." The 15,000 crowd was given a taste of what was to come early on in the 400m B race, where Britain's Mark Richardson and Jamie Baulch, neither of whom had been selected for an individual place at the Olympic Games, moved to fifth and sixth respectively on the European all-time list behind the great German Thomas Schönlebe and three other Britons.

Richardson finished second in 44.52 and Baulch third in 44.57, both setting personal bests. Richardson's early season form was derailed by a bad bout of food poisoning that restricted him to fifth in the Olympic trials last month.

Sport in brief

Boxing

Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champion, is to be questioned by police over allegations that he assaulted an 11-year-old boy.

Naseem's trainer Brendan Ingle said the boxer was assaulted that Boulding, a regular visitor to the gym over the last 18 months, had made the claim.

Boulding claims Naseem chased him after he made a cheeky remark during a football game. "He bent my fingers right back and said: 'On your knees. You dare to speak to the Prince of the World like that?' He forced me down and hit me," the boy said.

But Ingle said: "There was some name-calling... and Naz chased him. He brought him back to the football pitch and told him to get on with the game, but this boy turned on the taps and said Naz bent his fingers back."

Rugby League David Stephenson will resume his play with Oldham Bears when his two-year drugs ban — imposed after he was tested positive for steroids in March last year — expires next spring.

The Super League team have agreed a new two-year deal with 23-year-old hooker that will start when the suspension ends.

Great Britain's men's team play their last international before the Olympic Games when they meet Italy, runners-up to Switzerland in the Alps Cup last week, at Bisham this afternoon.

Britain will be looking for a morale-boosting win after their recent tired displays in Amsterdam, and will be particularly hopeful that the corner specialist Calum Gilles gets on the score-sheet.

Britain's women's team leave for the United States today. They are to acclimatise in North Carolina before moving on to Atlanta.

Cleave Lewis, who helped the Worthing Bears to three successive Bundesliga Championships, is returning to the Bundesliga League club as player-coach. The American guard-forward replaces the former England international Colin Irish, who has joined the French club Pith-Chelet.

Cricket

News and Scores 0891 22 88+ Test Match Live Commentary 28 Match Reports 29 Derbyshire 31 Middlesex 40 Durham 32 Nottingham 41 Essex 33 Nottingham 42 Glamorgan 34 Somerset 43 Gloucestershire 35 Surrey 44 Hampshire 36 Sussex 45 Kent 37 Warwickshire 46 Lancashire 38 Worcester 47 Leicestershire 39 Yorkshire 48

Sport @ The Guardian

Results

Wimbledon

Wimbledon Ladies: K. Krawinkel (Neth) leads P. Sampras (USA) 7-3, 7-4, 7-5; P. Sampras (USA) leads M. Wilander (Swe) 6-3, 7-5, 7-6.

Rugby Union

STUDENT WORLD CUP Pool C July 4, 1996. W. Ireland 22, Scotland 24.

Athletics

LAURENCE GRAND PRIX, Milan 1000m. L. Fredricks (Nam) 1:52.02; D. Bailey (Jama) 1:52.35; A. Bolder (Trin) 1:52.41; Christie (GB) 1:52.45; M. Johnson (USA) 1:52.47; D. Hahn (USA) 1:52.48; J. Thomas (USA) 1:52.49; B. Johnson (USA) 1:52.49; J. Thomas (USA) 4:37.25; B. Johnson (USA) 4:37.25; M. Johnson (USA) 4:37.25; M. Johnson (USA) 4:37.25.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 5, Houston 4, Montreal 4, Atlanta 1, Philadelphia 3, New York 2, Pittsburgh 1, California 0, Florida 0, St Louis 0, Houston 0, Cleveland 0, Boston 0.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 3, Kansas City 2, Detroit 1, Milwaukee 1, St Louis 0, Toronto 0, Oakland 0, Texas 0, Chicago 0, Minnesota 0, California 0, New York 0, Seattle 0, Oakland 1.

Bowls

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (In Ireland): K. Cooney (Ire) leads P. McEvoy (Ire) 4-1; K. Cooney (Ire) leads P. McEvoy (Ire) 4-1; K. Cooney (Ire) leads P. McEvoy (Ire) 4-1.

Cricket

SECONDI DIVISIONI: Cambridge 109, Essex 76, Leicestershire 75, Gloucestershire 74, Hampshire 73, Lancashire 72, Kent 71, Surrey 70, Warwickshire 69, Yorkshire 68, Derbyshire 67, Durham 66, Oxfordshire 65, Northamptonshire 64, Middlesex 63, Somerset 62, Gloucestershire 61, Hertfordshire 60, Bedfordshire 59, Cornwall 58, Devon 57, Cornwall 56.

Rugby Union

Quins sign Cabannes

WITH the 15-man code gearing up for its first fully professional season in a matter of deal-making, Quins yesterday completed the signing of Laurent Cabannes, the 33-year-old French flanker, on a two-year contract.

Rob Andrew's Newcastle Gosforth signed the former Scotland B forward George Graham on a three-year contract. Graham, 30, has been playing rugby league for the past five years with Carlisle, where he was paid a transfer fee.

Bath's wing Jon Slight-holme, their fly-half Richard Burdard, prop Kevin Yates and lock Martin Haag have all signed to stay with the English champions next season.

Cricket

CRICKET NEWS: Hampshire 144 (McCormack 47), Lancashire 111 (Brayley 37, France 5-39). Match abandoned as a draw.

Cricket

NO PLAY, RAIN: Glamorgan 300 (M. P. Dowling 100, V. Adams 77, Hughes 58) and Lancashire 250 (D. C. Walton 84, A. Forthorn, S. J. Sainsbury). Match abandoned as a draw.

Cricket

BRITANNIA CUP: Univ of London vs City of London 11, 22. Liverpool vs Univ of London 23, 16.

Cricket

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Cycling

TOUR DE FRANCE, Fourth stage (Solihull to Lac de Madine, 246km)

1. C. Saugrain (Fra) 6:27.00; 2. J. Murillo (Col) 6:27.00; 3. M. Lander (Ger) 6:27.00; 4. S. E. Zaluski (Fra) 6:27.00; 5. M. Lander (Ger) 6:27.00; 6. S. E. Zaluski (Fra) 6:27.00; 7. M. Lander (Ger) 6:27.00; 8. S. E. Zaluski (Fra) 6:27.00; 9. M. Lander (Ger) 6:27.00; 10. S. E. Zaluski (Fra) 6:27.00.

Rugby Union

STUDENT WORLD CUP Pool C July 4, 1996. W. Ireland 22, Scotland 24.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 5, Houston 4, Montreal 4, Atlanta 1, Philadelphia 3, New York 2, Pittsburgh 1, California 0, Florida 0, St Louis 0, Houston 0, Cleveland 0, Boston 0.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 3, Kansas City 2, Detroit 1, Milwaukee 1, St Louis 0, Toronto 0, Oakland 0, Texas 0, Chicago 0, Minnesota 0, California 0, New York 0, Seattle 0, Oakland 1.

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Tour de France

Heulot fans the flames

William Fotheringham at Lac de Madine

FOR several days Chris Boardman has been looking anxiously at the lowering, wind-swept skies and making ominous mutterings to the effect that a single error in the crosswinds that have swept the Tour since the start can be as costly as a bad day in the mountains.

Yesterday, leading east-coast Boardman's worst fears came close to being confirmed when the race split to southereans on a stretch of flat road that in calm conditions would not have troubled an old lady nipping down the slope for a baguette.

When the wind blows from the side the riders spread diagonally across the road in a single-line formation nicknamed the echelon or 'pezenzil' — a fan. The size of each fan depends simply on how many riders can fit on to the tarmac between the gutters and gain shelter from their fellows.

At one point there were half a dozen fans one behind the other, with most of the race favourites in the first Boardman was in the third, together with his team-mate, the local leader Frédéric Moncassin. They both would have lost several minutes if it had not been for a change of direction in the road that meant the sidewind became a headwind, suddenly and fortuitously slowing up the riders.

William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly

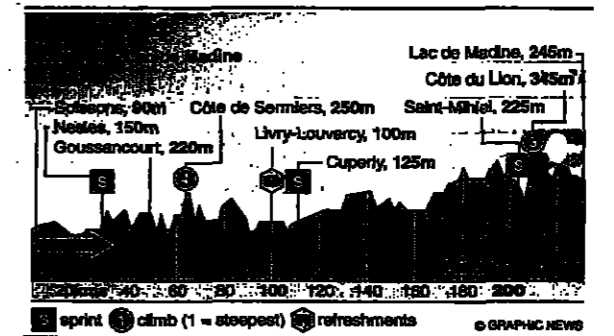
Stéphane Heulot spent much of the stage in a five-man escape and ended the day by snuffling the yellow jersey from Moncassin, who took the green points leader's jersey as compensation.

The move clearly gave Indurain and Jalabert food for thought, as Heulot finished fourth — one place ahead of Boardman — in the Dauphiné Libéré stage race in June, which means he can climb. The other escapee who may be seen again when the race reaches the Alps was the Italian Mariano Piccoli, twice the King of the Mountains in the Giro d'Italia.

The Spaniard and Frenchman were concerned enough to order their teams to reduce the break's lead from 17 minutes to a more respectable five at the lakeside finish. Here the surprise stage winner was the Frenchman Cyril Saugrain, an ear-ripping 23-year-old ranked 53rd in the world. His Aubervilliers team have a tiny budget compared to the big leaguers and their inclusion in the race was widely regarded as patriotic charity on the part of the organisers.

The race followed the Rouze Touristique de la Champagne along a twisting course to the south of Reims, between verdant ranks of verdant vines. Each honey-stone village had its own Premier Cru, which the locals dispensed liberally to the thirsty, motley crew known as the Tour auteurs. The champagne was not the only thing to turn heads. Riis, third last year and looking strong, came within a tyre's width of crashing when Jan Dravner, lost control and spun in the sprint on a sixth place. The Dane has spent all year preparing for the Tour, but yesterday his race could have gone pop, rather than fizz. Today's stage: Lac de Madine to Besancon, 151 miles.

William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly



Motor Racing

Schumacher II set to start at the bottom of Formula 1

Alan Henry

RAIF SCHUMACHER is poised to join his big brother Michael in Formula One next season.

Approaches have been made on his behalf by Jackie Stewart's Red Bull team, which will make its debut in 1997, and there are rumours that he will soon try out in a McLaren-Mercedes with a view to becoming that team's test driver next season.

Both Schumacher brothers are managed by the Stuttgart-based businessman Willy Weber, a long-time motor racing insider who fielded both men in the German F3 championship as their careers took shape. Michael took that title in 1989 and Ralf finished second in last year's contest behind Norberto Fontana, who is now the test driver for the Sauber-Ford F1 team.

Ralf Schumacher is now competing in the Japanese national Formula Nippon championship, where he recently won his second race

Motor Racing

Quickest and best boats to race around the world

Bob Fisher

A RACE around the globe has been announced by the world's leading yacht designer, and at the beginning of the 21st century has long been a dream for Bruno Peyron.

Yesterday in London, the French sailor revealed that the dream had become a reality with the support of his first financial partner — Disneyland, Paris.

It is a race of simplicity and purest form. Peyron purely and simply calls the Race. The dream began in 1983 and for three years he has checked his ideas with possible competitors, the world's best offshore skipper, to test their viability.

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Wimbledon Matchline

Latest Scores and Results. Top player's results to date

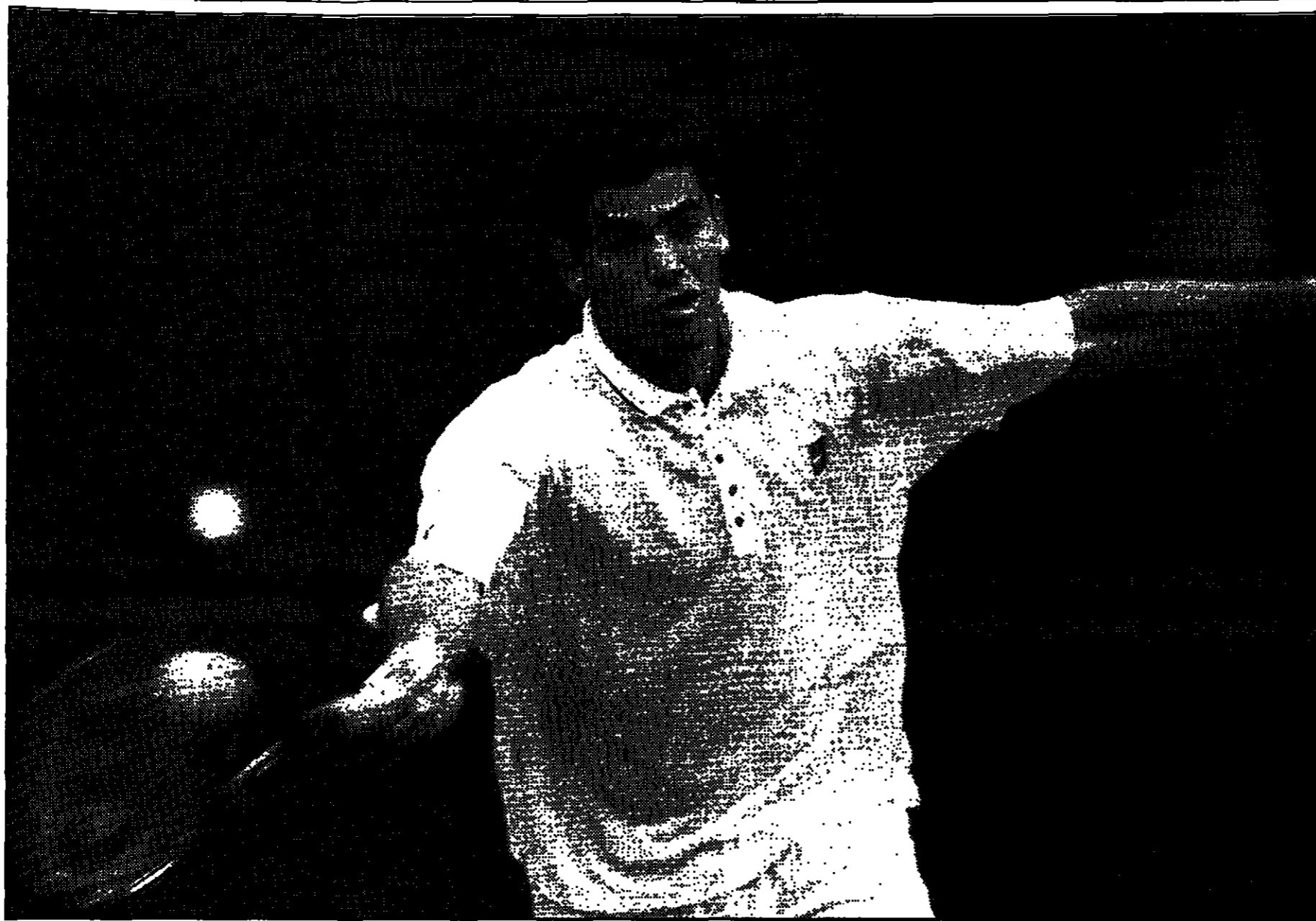
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Sport@TheGuardian

# SportsGuardian



Pistol misfires ... Pete Sampras gets to grips with a forehand volley yesterday but the champion lost the first two sets to Richard Krajicek before rain called a halt

## Sampras fights for survival

Stephen Bierley on a remarkable day that left two of the few remaining top guns teetering on the brink

**P**ETE SAMPRAS, the champion for the past three years and an overwhelming favourite for a fourth title, was fighting desperately to cling on to his Wimbledon crown when rain brought an end to play on the Centre Court last night. Remarkably tennis continued on the No. 1 court, where the No. 4 seed Goran Ivanisevic found himself serving to save the match against the unseeded German Jason Stoltenberg. This the Croatian achieved, winning a third-set tie-break before the two players were ushered off. Stoltenberg leads 6-3, 7-6, 6-7.

Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, one of the biggest servers on the circuit, has two sets of daylight between him and Sampras in a quarter-final match that began shortly after 12.30pm. It was still going strong (which is more than can be said for the American) at the close. The play having been severely disrupted by rain. Tim Henman, who was due on court after this match, spent the day twiddling his thumbs. He will return this morning, first on at 11 o'clock, assuming the weather relents. If Sampras and Ivanisevic go out then God may be seen by many to be British and Henman could find himself sharing a statue with Fred Perry, the last home winner of the men's title in 1936.

Should Sampras lose today, after 25 consecutive wins on Wimbledon's grass, then he will look back at the third game of the first set against Krajicek with particular ruefulness. The American was clearly determined to impose himself on the Dutchman's serve at the earliest opportunity and had five break points in a game of nine deuces in the third game. Yet each time Krajicek managed to conjure up a saving shot, sometimes by sleight of hand, sometimes with a resounding blow. This single game lasted well over 10 minutes. Sampras managed one more serve of his own and then, at 2-2, the rain came bucketing down.

Three hours and 40 minutes later they tried again and the significance of those missed breaks took on a sharper focus. With Krajicek holding his serve to 6-5 Sampras was dramatically broken to love. Not so much broken as torn limb from limb. The Dutchman unleashed forehand and backhand returns of quite extraordinary venom leaving Sampras blinking with disbelief. "These two had never met before in a Grand Slam event, although in four previous meetings Krajicek had won twice. "I knew he would be coming along one day at Wimbledon," said Sampras, as if hinting at some strange foreboding. Play was stopped again in the second set and when it resumed Sampras was again in trouble with a break point against his serve in the 12th game. A mishit backhand by

the No.1 seed clipped the baseline to save him, but this was only to delay his loss of the set. Prior to yesterday Krajicek's tie-break record was abysmal; on this occasion he took immediate and compulsive control, speeding to a 5-0 lead. Sampras rallied briefly but a final backhand pass saw the Dutchman home in the second set, if not exactly dry. It was 1-1 in the third set when Centre Court's struggle with the elements finally ended. One of the men moving the huge tarpaulin cover was hit on the back of the head and had to be carried off. This unfortunate accident allowed further rain to get on the court so at just after 6pm play was abandoned, no doubt to the relief of Sampras. Neither the sight of Sampras in terrible trouble, nor an impromptu rain-break concert by Sir Cliff Richard (terrible to some), could disguise the feelings of frustration.

## Why America prefers to stay off track



Ian Katz

**A**MERICA has fallen in love with Michael Johnson. His perfect musculature ripples across the cover of every glossy Olympic supplement, he has been a guest on all the morning television shows and he is the star of a new government-funded anti-drug advertising campaign. The sprinter's popularity is scarcely surprising in the wake of his world record-shattering 200 metres at the US Olympic trials last month. Americans love a good superlative and Johnson has surpassed a fine one. Who could fall to be excited by the idea of an American breaking the oldest record in athletics?

Throughout the build up to the Games, Sheryl Swoops, the lie-some heroine of the US women's basketball team, has received twice the coverage devoted to any track star bearing Johnson or Lewis. Even Johnson has barely emerged from the shadow of Dream Team III, the Olympic basketball side that does not even include the NBA's two best players. Everyone involved in the sport admits that athletics is in big trouble in America. The country no longer hosts a major international event. When it tries, the stands are empty. According to Brad Hunt, the agent who represents several top US athletes including Johnson, the sport has come "almost to the stage of catastrophe". It is hard to see why. On the face of it athletics has all the ingredients to make it an American favourite: endless statistics; convenient breaks for TV advertising and an abundance of home-grown international stars. Sure there are a few races that go on too long and a handful of events, shot put for instance, that won't sell. But they can easily be edited into obscurity.

What is surprising is that the athlete's celebrity in his own homeland has been so long in coming. Long after the French were referring to him as *Magique*, Johnson could walk through his home town of Dallas without fear of being recognised. Reserve line-backers for the Dallas Cowboys were more likely to be stopped for autographs. Pundits have placed the blame on his bland personality and apparent distaste for showmanship. He was, after all, the man who celebrated victories in the 200m and 400m at the world championships in Gothenburg with a tour of the Volvo factory.

**M**OST critics blame USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body, for failing to mount the kind of sassy marketing campaigns that have turned basketball into a multi-billion dollar cash machine and even sold American football, a game so ridiculous that no other nation has bothered to learn its rules. If athletics had cool adverts and a catchy slogan like basketball's "I Love this Game", they say, lycra bodysuits would be flying off the shelves as quickly as Michael Jordan vests.

The sport's bosses insist they are not to blame, intimating that the problem lies with their prickly stars. Lewis, arguably the greatest track athlete of all time, was never promoted as athletics' answer to Jordan because of a long-running feud with USA Track and Field. Labelled as arrogant and conceited, Lewis did not win a major product endorsement in the US. In 1992, eight years after he won four golds at the Los Angeles Games, Lewis's longevity has earned him a kind of redemption but US hopes now lie on Johnson's broad shoulders. If he wins the precious 200m and 400m double at Atlanta, a cable channel might get round to televising athletics on days where there are no college football games or figure skating competitions. In the fall, he can reclaim his anonymity.

In truth, however, the failure to embrace Johnson reflects America's profoundly paradoxical relationship with athletics. On one hand the US dominates much of the sport, producing a seemingly endless stream of top-class sprinters and supremely gifted all-rounders. On the other, most Americans care who ran the fastest 100m this year about as much as who is relegated from the English Second Division. The vanishing profile of athletics was powerfully underlined by the ticket requests received for the Atlanta Olympics. The most sought-after seats were for the opening and closing ceremonies, the baseball and basketball finals and some gymnastics events. More people applied to see the women's floor-exercise final than the 100m, the blue-ribbon event in any other country. The second-class status of athletics has been visible

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## BBC hit as Fifa sells off World Cup for £1.5bn

**N**eil Robinson

**T**HE BBC and ITV face a huge rise in the cost of television rights to future soccer World Cups after Fifa yesterday broke with long tradition by denying Europe's terrestrial broadcasters automatic coverage of tournaments after 1998. Soccer's governing body announced a £1.46 billion deal for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups with the Bavarian media mogul Leo Kirch and the Swiss-based marketing agency ISL, who will auction the rights off to individual broadcasters. The decision to end the current agreement with the European Broadcasting Union, the umbrella body which bid £1.1 billion, ends more than 25 years of guaranteed access for public-service channels. Theoretically the BBC and

ITV may now be denied coverage after France in 1998. Although this is unlikely there will be a price to pay. Fifa retains ownership of the rights and has a veto over which individual broadcasters are sold the rights to the world's biggest sporting event. It has previously shied away from satellite stations in order to maximise audiences for sponsors. "We want to know that the best coverage is done because football should be accessible to everyone - which means that in Mali, in the mountains of Switzerland and in Bolivia people have the right to see the World Cup," said Fifa's general secretary Sepp Blatter. "This is our responsibility, to make sure that they see it. It is our duty."

Neither the BBC nor ITV would comment yesterday. However, the German public broadcaster ARD said soccer fans would suffer. "[Fifa] is breaking off a successful 24-year cooperative relationship that has benefited all viewers in Europe," it said, adding that the cost would have to be met through additional advertising or pay-per-view charges. Britain's terrestrial broadcasters will be alarmed by the knock-on effect of the EBU's defeat. The last deal, negotiated in 1983, was for three tournaments (1990, 1994 and 1998). Under its terms broadcasters outside the United States paid a combined total of £180 million. That valued the rights to the 1998 tournament at \$66 million, of which the EBU pays half and BBC and ITV £1.6 million each. Elements within Fifa have long claimed the World Cup was undersold. Its previous failure to capitalise on the vast global audience formed part of the power struggle between Fifa's veteran president Joao Havelange and Uefa's president Lennart Johansson.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,696

Set by Rufus

- Across**
- 9 Rouse the fiery Celt, perhaps (9)
  - 10 Pinch, for example, makes a girl cross (5)
  - 11 Unusually smart do for film eminece (7)
  - 12 Tiredness may lead to military punishment (7)
  - 13 One shouldn't lie under it (4)
  - 14 Alan sent up in a nasty way (10)
  - 16 They're not often miscast in Westerns (7)
  - 17 Bird from the frozen North (7)
  - 19 It's not often the present combines with the past (3,3,4)
  - 22 Brings back plans for canned meat (4)
  - 24 Longed for 1996, for example, to end in style (7)
- Down**
- 25 Request treatment of colitis (7)
  - 26 Estimated trade turnover (5)
  - 27 Painters may paint it, and in a variety of places (9)
- Solution tomorrow**
- TF Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 238. Calls cost 35p per min, cheap rates, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by RTS.
- CE 1 2 3

**Sport96**

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